THE ENGLISH ROGUE; OR THE LIFE OF JEREMY SHARP.

The world's a wilderness, thro' which men run,
Some to undo, and some to be undone.

To which is added

A NARRATIVE OF MARY TOFT;

Of an extraordinary Delivery of

EIGHTEEN RABBETS,

Performed by Mr. John Howard, Surgeon at Guildford, in Surry, in the Year MDCCXXVI.

Published by Mr. St. André, Surgeon, and Anatomist to his Majesty:

LIKEWISE

An exact DIARY, of what was observed, during a close Attendance upon MARY TOFT, by Sir Richard Manningham, Knt. Fellow of the Royal Society, and of the College of Physicians; from November 28, to Wednesday December 7, following.

The Eighth Edition in Three Volumes.

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THE ENGLISH ROGUE; OR, THE LIFE OF JEREMY SHARP.

CHAP. I.

His birth and parentage, with an account of his miraculous escape from the Irish rebels.

UPON the strictest enquiry that I could make into my father's pedigree, I never found that any of his ancestors bore a coat; surely

length of time had worn it out: but the gentle-craft will any-ways ennoble our family, I believe I could produce ſeveral of his name practiſing that art, and deduce our genealogy even from Criſpin himſelf, the prince of the profeſſion.

My grandfather, by his great frugality, and conſtant labour in huſbandry, arrived at the height of a farmer, who being then the head of all his kindred, as he was ſtanding one day upon one of his own mole-hills, he was ſo puffed up with ambition, that he ſwore by his plow-ſhare, his eldeſt ſon, my father, ſhould be a ſchollard, and ſhould learn ſo long that he might not only be able to read written-hand, but, on an occaſion, to draw a bill of bond himſelf.

It was never known, before the days of my father, that any of our ancient family could diſtinguiſh one letter from another, nor could they ſpeak any language

much

much above the underſtanding of their horſes. Grammar and logic were ſciences they had never been initiated in; no mathematical problems ever puzzled their pates; and for arithmetic they knew none other than notching a tally, or ſcoring in chalk; but for muſic, ſome of them could whiſtle very well, and am told, that I had once an uncle, who was born with one eye only, that had an excellent hand on the fiddle, and played Jumping Joan and Moll Pateley, to ſuch perfection, that he was held in high eſteem at all the ſheep-ſhearings and country wakes about the pariſh in which he lived. Some other of my relations had been very ingenious in driving a team, and had the art of ſhoeing their horſes as well as themſelves: others had ſuch knowledge of the celeſtial bodies, that they could foretel a froſt by the twinkling of the ſtars, and by leaning methodically on a ſtaff, and by peeping through the holes in their hats, could tell what o'clock it was by the ſun.

THE acuteneſs of my father's wit, with the beauty and ſymmetry of his perſon, procured him the love, or admiration of all that beheld him; as his handſome face and fine make gained him an intereſt with the women; ſo had he many friends among the beſt ſort of men in the country for his quick apprehenſion, and the acquired quaintneſs of his expreſſion. A gentleman at length, taking notice of his more than ordinary natural parts, ſent him to ſchool at his own proper charge, not but that my grandfather was able enough to maintain him there; and, to ſay the truth, this gentleman offered my father his patronage, not ſo much upon any charitable account, as that he might glory thereafter in bringing into the world ſo promiſing a genius, which he queſtioned not, with good cultivation, would bring forth ſuch rare fruit as would anſwer his coſt, and fully ſatisfy his expectations. Being admitted into the grammar ſchool, by the ſtrength of his memory, and his conſtant

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application, he, in a very ſhort time, got all Lilly's rules by rote, out-ſtripping many who had been entered long before him. His maſter perceiving what a ſtupenduous proficiency he made, was very glad of this opportunity to be idle, and would appoint my father his deputy or uſher, when he had a mind to make an offering at the ſhrines of Bacchus or Venus; for the good ſchool-maſter, as other learned men ſometimes are, was greatly addicted to drinking and whoring. My father having now conquered all the difficulties of that ſchool, began to lay aſide his book, and follow the ſteps of his vicious maſter, the examples of ſuperior proving oftentimes ſnares to the actions of inferior, *Regis ad Exemplum* ——— know.

Besides his ſpringing age, wherein the blood is hot and ungo rnable, ſpurred him on, and the na ural diſpoſition of his

mind gave him wings to fly whither his unbounded and libidinous inclinations prompted him. His youth introduced him into all ſorts of vanity, and his conſtitution of body was the mother of all his unlawful pleaſures. His temperament gave ſenſe the pre-eminence to reaſon. My grandfather, too indulgent to his ſon, ſupplied him continually with money, which he could do the more eaſily as he was not at the expence of his education, and my father having more than a bare competency, not only conſents to the commiſſion of evil himſelf, but ſeduces others to do the like, or is eaſily ſeduced by them, for he was of the frankeſt diſpoſition in the world, and the beſt tempers are the ſooneſt depraved, as the pureſt fleſh is ſooneſt corrupted, and the moſt noiſome when it is ſo. Yet, notwithſtanding theſe blooming

oaucheries, he neglected not his ſtudies ſo much, but that he qualified himſelf for the univerſity, and was ſent thither by his

patron's

patron's approbation. Here, for a time, he applied himself so assiduously to his book, that he became a match for the best critic in his own college, or any of the rest; and in an assured confidence of his own abilities, ventured to attack the most formidable adversary, giving such proofs of his cutting wit, that he was as much dreaded by the formal and precise, as he was acceptable to the gay and sprightly; so that the Oxford gallants engrossed so much of his time in parties of pleasure, that he had little left to attend his studies; but giving way to their solicitations, and prompted by his own powerful inclinations, he plunged himself over head and ears in all manner of sensuality; 'till for his lewd practices, and inimitable wickedness, he was expelled the college.

He was now forced to return to his father, who received him with great joy, but was quite ignorant of the cause of his leaving the university. To palliate his villanies,

villanies, he told his too credulous father, that he had learned as much as he was capable to be inſtructed in; and would now and then ſprinkle his diſcourſe with Greek and Latin ſentences, which the poor old man was raviſhed with the ſound of, although he underſtood not one word of what he heard. When the young Oxonian began to ſpeak at any time, then would my grandfather, and all the company, ſit as ſilent as midnight, and the old gentleman, full of admiration himſelf, would beckon to the ſtanders-by to give their attention, to what the Speaker, many times, as little underſtood as his Auditors, for he cared not what nonſenſe he uttered, if wrapt up in unintelligible hard words, purpoſely to abuſe the honeſt plow-jobbers. At length my father, in great oſtentation, was preſented to the parſon of the pariſh, who, by good fortune, knew no other language than what his mother had taught him; ſo that

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Shoulderamuton, Akapon, Paſty Venaſon, went off for very good Greek. The parſon telling my grandfather that his ſon was an excellent ſcholar, proteſted he ſpoke many things that he did not underſtand: this, I have heard him ſay, made him good ſport, and gave him as much diverſion as ever he had in the moſt ingenious ſociety.

He had not been long in the country, before a young lady, admiring his fine perſon and great parts, fell deſperately in love with him, and preferring her own to the inclinations of her wealthy relations, was incontinently married to him. I ſhall not enter into all the particulars of this affair, and how it was brought about, but only relate one part of them that was the moſt remarkable. The young lady, not able to bridle her paſſion, acquaints an old matronly gentlewoman in the neighbourhood with it, who, having always been a well-wiſher to the mathematicks, contrived

trived ways to get them together unsuspected of any body, and then set them to work without the help of a parson; [illegible] my mother, for I must now call her so, finding herself pregnant, told my father how it was with her, who, rejoicing that he had tied her so fast to him, pressed her to the speedy consummation of a legal marriage, which she was as desirous of as himself, but knew very well that she should highly displease her parents by matching so much beneath her; however, there was no other remedy to salve her reputation, nor any thing so fit to stop the gap that was made in her honour, and in another part a great deal more ticklish, so they concluded to steal a wedding. Much troubled her parents were when they first came to hear of it, but by the intercession of friends, a very submissive behaviour, and a full persuasion that their child would not otherwise have been happy or contented, a reconciliation was procured

cured, and all parties at length well satisfied. The old people began to have great expectations of their son-in-law; my father had great consolation from a large sum of money they paid him; and my mother was highly pleased at the thoughts of having my father constantly with her, of whose kindness and conversation she thought she could never have enough.

His father-in-law, thinking the church the highway to preferment, and he being so well qualified for it, prevailed upon him to go into holy orders, after which he procured for him a nobleman's scarf, with whom he travelled into Ireland, where he lived both creditably and comfortably; for he had now so reformed his life that his example did more good than his precepts, although he was allowed to be an excellent preacher.

My mother now grew near the time of her travail, having conceived me in England,

land, when she could not conceive that she should thus drop me in a bog in Ireland, where I was at length brought into the world; and there is no doubt but England and Ireland, after my decease, will contend for the honour of my nativity, as several towns in Greece did for that of Homer's.

Four years after my birth, the rebellion began so unexpectedly, that we were forced to fly in the night; the light of the flaming houses, ricks of hay, and stacks of corn, guiding us out of the town, and our fears soon conveying us to the mountains. The rebels flocked together in great parties, and wandering about to seek the English, whom they designed to sacrifice to their implacable malice, met my mother, attended by two scullogues, her menial servants; the one carrying me, and the other my brother, about a year younger than myself; the fates had decreed

creed my brother's death, who was butchered, with the faithful ſervant that had him in his care; but the ſurviving ſervant who carried me, declaring that he was a a Roman Catholick, and imploring their mercy, with his howling chram a crees for St. Patrick a gra, procured his own, my mother's, and my liberty; yet not till they had ſtripped our bodies ſtark naked in an extreme cold night. Thus, without ſhoes or ſtockings, or the leaſt rag to cover our nakedneſs, with the help of our guide, we travelled all night thro' woods and wilds, finding ourſelves at Belfaſt, about break of day, when, upon entering into the ſkirts of the town, the honeſt and grateful ſcullogue, being aſſured we were in ſafety, took his leave of us, and returned to the rebels.

In this place we met with much pity from all, and ſome charitable well-diſpoſed people entertain'd, cloathed and fed us. My father, who hid himſelf in a hol-

low tree, with much difficulty eſcaped, and got to us, there being great ſearch made for him, for the rebels had a more than common hatred to the Proteſtant miniſters, not contenting themſelves to ſtrip and murder the living; they alſo dug up the bones of ſeveral that had been buried many years, becauſe they were, as they ſaid, the patrons of hereſy. At Belfaſt, when the maſſacre was over, my father often preached, and gave great ſatisfaction to his auditors, till the Scotiſh faction, judged the ſark or ſurplice to be the abſolute ſmock of the whore of Babylon. Then was he conſtrained to fly again to Linſegarvy, taking my mother and myſelf with him.

I MUST here beg the reader's patience a little before I proceed farther, and take leave to make a ſmall digreſſion in giving a brief account of the Iriſh maſſacre. The ancient hatred an animoſities which

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the Iriſh had been obſerved, for a long time before, to bear to the Engliſh, had now for ſome years ſeemed to be quite forgotten, and the people of the two nations, to all outward appearance, lived together in very good harmony. Their intermarriages were almoſt as frequent as their goſſippings and foſterings, relations of great endearment among the Iriſh. They adopted one another's cuſtoms and manners; and many of the better ſort of Iriſh took delight in learning the Engliſh language, and wearing the Engliſh apparel; and by this commerce and good underſtanding they found ſuch profit, and their lands were ſo greatly improved, that Sir Phelim O-Neal, that cruel ringleader of the rebels, with divers others, eminent in that bloody inſurrection, had turned off their Iriſh tenants, and admitted Engliſh in their rooms, who were able to give greater rents, and find better ſecurity for the payment of them: ſo that all circum-

ſtances conſidered, the great increaſe of trade, and other ſymptoms of a flouriſhing country, it was believed, even by the wiſeſt and moſt experienced in the affairs of Ireland, that the peace and tranquility of that kingdom was fully ſettled, and in all human probability likely to continue ſo, eſpecially under the government of ſuch a king as Charles the Firſt, whom after-ages may admire, but hardly ever will match; ſuch was the ſerenity, and ſeeming ſecurity of this kingdom, that there appeared not any-where the leaſt preparation for war, nor any whiſpers of what afterwards happened; but in the midſt of this imaginary ſafety, whilſt the Proteſtant ſubjects of that nation, were pleaſantly enjoying the fruits of their own labour, and ſitting under their own vines, without the leaſt apprehenſion of danger, there broke out, on the 23d of October, 1641, a moſt deſperate and unnatu-

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ral rebellion, wherein not only the meer native Iriſh, but almoſt all thoſe Engliſh who profeſſed the Roman-Catholick religion, were totally involved.

As I have undertaken to give the reader a particular account of the moſt remarkable tranſactions and paſſages of my life, it would be inexcuſable to omit what befel me in the beginning of it, at this moſt extraordinary time af calamity; and and that I may ſatisfy him herein, I ſhall give a ſummary relation, not only of my own ſufferings, but what others underwent from the cruelties of the Iriſh, and the abominable murders by them committed, as well without number, as without mercy, upon the Engliſh Proteſtants of both ſexes, and all ages.

It was carried with ſuch ſecrecy, that none knew of the conſpiracy 'till the very evening that preceded the night of the ge-

neral execution. It is true there was ſomething of it more than ſuſpected by one Sir William Cole, in the country, who immediately ſent away letters to the Lords Juſtices, but they were intercepted before they came to their hands. Owen O-Conally, though meer Iriſh, was, nevertheleſs, a Proteſtant, and the firſt diſcoverer of the intended inſurrection at Dublin; where he gave in the names of ſeveral of the chief conſpirators; upon which the Lords Juſtices preſently called a council, and uſed ſuch care and diligence, that ſome of the ringleaders were inſtantly taken into cuſtody, and examined, who confeſſed, that, on that very day, all the ports and ſtrong places in Ireland were to be ſeized, and that there was a conſiderable number of gentlemen, and others, twenty at leaſt out of each county, come up, on purpoſe to ſurprize the caſtle of Dublin; but for what was to be done in

the country, they ſaid, it was too late for the power of man to prevent it. Hereupon a ſtrict ſearch was made for all ſtrangers lately come into the city, and all horſes were ſeized, whoſe owners could not give a good account of them. A proclamation was publiſhed, giving notice of a horrid plot of the Iriſh Papiſts intended againſt the Proteſtants; but this was of little ſervice, for the rebels had before then aſſembled in great numbers, principally in the north in the province of Ulſter, taking many towns, as Newry, Drummore, &c. burning, ſpoiling, and committing execrable murders every-where. Theſe things occaſioned ſuch a conſternation in the minds of the Engliſh, as they very well might, that they thought themſelves no where ſecure, running about, from place to place, out of one danger into another.

In a very ſhort time, the meer Iriſh northern Papiſts, by cloſely purſuing their plot,

plot, had got into their poſſeſſion moſt of the towns, forts, caſtles, and gentlemen's houſes in the counties of Tyron, Donnegal, Fermanah, Armagh, &c. The chief who appeared in the execution of this plot, in the province of Ulſter, were Sir Phelim O-Neal, Tourlough, his brother, Roure-Mac-Guire, Philip O-Rely, Sir Conne-Mac-Gennis, Mac-Brian, and Mac-Mahon; theſe, combining with their accomplices, divided their forces, and ſurprized the forts of Dungannon, Mountjoy, and Charlemont, with many other places of conſiderable ſtrength. Few of the Engliſh had other than Iriſh landlords, tenants, ſervants, neighbours, or familiar acquaintance: as ſoon as the fire broke out, and the whole country was in flames, they fled to ſome of theſe, relying upon them for protection, and with great confidence truſted their lives and fortunes in their hands; but they were all very ſhortly betrayed to others, or deſtroyed by their

treacherous

treacherous friends. The prieſts exhorting them to this holy butchery, giving the ſacrament to divers of the Iriſh, upon condition that they ſhould ſpare neither men, women, nor children of the Proteſtants. They read excommunication againſt all ſuch as ſhould relieve or harbour any Engliſh, Scotiſh, or Welch Proteſtants, or give them any alms. The day before the maſſacre begun, the prieſts gave the people a diſmiſs at maſs, with liberty to go out, and take poſſeſſion of all the lands of the Proteſtants, as alſo ſtrip, rob, and deſpoil them of all their goods and cattle.

In the town of Colerain, of the poor wretches who fled thither for ſuccour, many thouſands died in two days, ſo that the living were not enough to bury the dead, whoſe carcaſes were thrown together in great pits. One Magdalen Redman, with many Proteſtants, among whom were two-and-twenty widows, were

were firſt robbed, and then ſtripped naked; and when they had covered themſelves with ſtraw, the bloody Papiſts ſet fire to it, and afterwards drove them into the woods, where they periſhed with extreme cold.

At Portendown-bridge, a thouſand men, women, and children, were carried in ſeveral companies, and all unmercifully drowned in the river. A young Scotiſh woman's child the rebels took by the heels, and daſhed its brains out againſt a tree: ſome men and women theſe barbarous Papiſts conſtrained to murder their children; and ſome children were compelled unnaturally to execute their own parents.

The Iriſh trulls, who followed the camp, cried out, "Kill them all, ſpare "neither man, woman, nor child." A child of one Thomas Stratton, about twelve years old, was boiled in a caldron.

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In ſome places they plucked out the eyes, and cut off the hands of the Proteſtants, and turned them into the fields, were they periſhed. In other parts the women ſtoned the Engliſh women and children to death. The very children imitated the cruelty of their parents, of which I ſhall carry a mark to my grave, by a wound that was given me with a ſkein by one of my Iriſh play-fellows. It was high time for us to remove, but whither we knew not, every place we arrived at ſeeming leſs ſecure than that we had left laſt; wherefore we were in continual motion, and coming at length to the ſea-ſhore, we got into a ſhip, truſting ourſelves to the more merciful waves. This ſhip ſailed the next day for England; but my father, what with the terror he had been under, and the fatigue of his travelling, died almoſt as ſoon as we came on board; ſo were my mother and myſelf left with nothing to ſupport us, but the

hopes

hopes ſhe had in her relations in Devonſhire, to whom we made the beſt of our way, and were kindly received by them, after my mother's humbling herſelf for her tranſgreſſions, and recounting the misfortunes ſhe had gone through.

I was now about five years of age; and report had rendered me a very beautiful child; neither did it, as moſt commonly, prove a liar; but pity it is, that with a handſome face, I had not been enriched with thoſe endowments of the mind which are far more preferable: but, alas! it was quite otherwiſe. For although I was ſo very young, I was as great a rogue as a child of that age is capable of being, and indulged myſelf in all the waggaries and little miſchievous tricks I could think of. I remember, among other pranks, we had a turky-cock, that had a great ſpite at my red coat, and gave me many a bruſh, which made me ſtudy how to be revenged, and I was not long in compaſſing my end;

end; for, enticing him to the orchard-gate, which ſhut with a pully, he no ſooner put his head between that and the poſt, but I ſuddenly let it fall, and caught him by the neck; having him thus faſt, I exerted all the little ſtrength I had, and diſpatched him with my catſtick; then, as a trophy of my victory, over my mortal foe, I deſpoiled him of his tail and wing feathers, which I ſtuck in my bonnet, and took ſuch pride in gazing upwards at the ſpoils of my conqueſt, that I perfectly ſtrained my optic nerves, and was in ſome danger of ſquinting. This was no ſmall trouble to my mother, who doated on me ſo much, that I have often heard her ſay, ſhe forgot to eat ſometimes, when I ſat at table, ſhe was ſo taken up with admiring the ſweetneſs of my features and complexion: However, this concern laſted not long, for in a very little time my ſparkling eyes recovered their uſual luſtre, and their oblique aſ-

pects were hardly diſcernable, or if there were ſome little caſt left, it was ſo far from being a blemiſh, that it was rather an ornament to my face; that face which, by the help of a deluding tongue, and an intrepid aſſurance, proved afterwards a ſnare to myſelf, and too many tender-hearted females: but neither my beauty nor my mother's wit, at preſent, would ſerve to maintain us, for our kindred thinking we lay too long upon them, began to grumble and grow weary of our company, which made my mother, who was naturally of a high ſpirit, to take leave of them, and throw herſelf upon providence.

From Barnſtaple (for this was the place where my mother's relations lived) we travelled to Plymouth, we being altogether unacquainted both with the people and their profeſſion, my mother caſt about with herſelf to know how we were to be pro-

provided for, and, having a pregnant wit, found no way more expedient than a pretence of religion; for zeal and piety were then all the fashion; so she seemed to follow the text in a literal sense: "Without doubt godliness is great gain." But she had like to have been mistaken when she was about to profess the doctrine of the church of England, nor would she have been better off had she called herself a Presbyterian, for the Plymotheans were rigid independants, therefore to those principles she stuck close, and thereby raised some comfortable contributions, in private, to supply her wants; much had she borrowed of the sisterhood, when they began to suspect her of having too much familiarity with the brethren, and giving way to the carnal man, which obliged her to rub off to another place, lest, when the holy vizard was taken away, she might have been delivered up to Satan to be buffeted.

Now farewel Plymouth, no matter whither we went, for in what place ſoever we came, we ſtill found ſome or other that gave us entertainment for the good parts they found in my mother. She was well read both in divinity and hiſtory, and having much rhetoric on her tongue and in her eyes, ſhe commonly applied herſelf to the miniſter of the town, who, wondering to find ſo much learning and perfection in a woman, either took her into his own houſe for awhile, or gathered ſomething from his friends and pariſhioners, with which we ſupplied our preſent neceſſities, and were enabled to travel to the next town; and in this manner we wandered up and down, ſtaying but a ſhort time in any one place, and my mother, being more ſtudious how to get a ſubſiſtence, than to ſeaſon my tender years with the knowledge of letters, I was ten years old before I could read; coming at laſt to Bridport, in Dorſetſhire, we found

means

means to ſettle, my mother knew beſt how; and here, after ſhe had taught me the alphabet, which I learned in fewer hours than there are letters in it, I was ſent to the grammar ſchool, where I ſoon grew a meer book worm, ſecuring to my own uſe as many books as I could find an opportunity to convey away privately, ſo metamorphoſing them before I ventured to ſell them, that the true owners could not know them.

THIS courſe I followed for a long time, which coſt my ſchool-fellows ſevere puniſhments for their careleſsneſs: as for the money I had various uſes for it; the principal was, to bribe ſome of the upper-form to make my exerciſes for me; which were ſo well approved of by my maſter, that I always came off with applauſe, and in a ſhort time was ſo far advanced, that I was next to the higheſt form, when I underſtood not the loweſt author we read.

I was forced to employ all my wit, to keep touch with my penſioners, that I might maintain my poſt; for if they ſhould have failed me, I muſt have loſt all credit with my maſter, and have been brought into the utmoſt diſgrace with the whole ſchool. The trouble of making my exerciſe being thus taken off my hands, I had the more leiſure to rob orchards, and play many other pranks that I more delighted in; ſuch as milking cows in my hat, plucking the firſt and ſecond quills off from the wings of as many geeſe as came in my way; and if I happened to meet any ſtraggling poultry I made ſure of them; at night I frequented the hen-rooſts, taking them gently of the perch, for fear of diſturbing the reſt; and if I could not conveniently bring them away, I uſed to make their eggs compound for their heads; at other times, I was wont to fiſh for ducks, baiting my hook with a piece of gut, or ſome ſuch traſh, and laying

it

it on a cork, that it might be the ſooner perceived, I could catch as many as I pleaſed, and when I had got them, there was an old woman in the town, that dealt in gingerbread and toys, who was ready to receive them, and purchaſed them for a trifle, but would ſometimes allow me to partake of the good cheer I had brought her, as indeed ſhe very well might; for I had ſeldom above two-pence for the value of a ſhilling; and ſometimes, like New-England-men, we bartered ware for ware.

I KNEW my puniſhment for rambling and playing truant, but valued it not; ſo there were but little hopes of a reformation from thence. As for my thefts and rogueries abroad, I was careful enough not to be diſcovered: if any boy injured me, whoſe ſtrength exceeded mine, ſo that I could not cope with him fairly, I would exerciſe my revenge on him privately, concealing the reſentment I had of the

the injury done me; for to grin and not bite, doth but provoke an adverſary to knock out thoſe teeth which may ſometime or other hurt him. The ſecret ways I took to ſatisfy this paſſion, which ſome call ſweet, were ſuch as ſtrewing peaſe upon the ſtairs or ſteps, I knew my antagoniſt was to come down; ſticking pins in the place he was to ſit; ſcattering cut horſe-hair in his bed, or contriving means to make him blot his book; for which I, with a great deal of pleaſure, ſaw him undergo the diſcipline of the ferula, at leaſt. My maſter, at length, diſcovering my defect of learning, and how much he had been deceived, after a ſevere whipping for miſpending my precious time, degraded me to the loweſt form. The ſhame of which, and the reproach I daily met with from my ſchool-fellows, were ſuch indignities, that my proud heart could never ſubmit to; wherefore I prevailed upon my mother's indulgence to let me try to regain

gain at home what I had loſt at ſchool, which ſhe conſented to; but ſoon perceiving my wanton inclinations, by my night practices with her maid, ſhe reſolved to ſend me to a boarding-ſchool; for our family being ſmall, I lay with the maid, and, at my years, my mother could not ſuſpect any danger in it; but I was a forward youth, and, having ſuch a delicious creature of about fifteen years of age in the naked bed with me, it was impoſſible to lie quiet, and I did indeed many times put her to the ſqueak. In fine, I was ſent away to a great diſtance, and placed under a very ſevere maſter, who made me ſet cloſe to my book, and leſt my wit ſhould be dulled, my ſtomach was kept ſharp, which likewiſe ſharpened my invention, and put me upon many ſchemes to ſuppreſs the inteſtine war in my belly; for certainly there is no complaint more troubleſome than the grumbling of empty guts. My greateſt care was to inſinuate my-

myſelf into the favour of the maids, knowing very well, that they would rather play at ſmall game than ſtand out: and I performed my buſineſs ſo well among them, that I had always my belly full, while the other boarders were diſſatisfied, and oftentimes went to bed ſupperleſs.

In this place I had not the ſame opportunities for pilfering as before, it being but a ſmall village, and having no way to diſpoſe of my ſtolen goods; however, to keep my hand in uſe, I daily practiſed on fruit, ſometimes with a ſpar, ſharpened at one end, I pricked the apples out of baſkets; at other times I carried a comrade with me, and then we took this method: I would go to a fruiterer and bargain with him for a pennyworth, or more, of apples, receiving them into my hat, then pretending to draw my money out to pay for them, I clapt my hat between

between my legs, which, as ſoon as my partner ſaw, who ſtood at ſome diſtance, he ran up, as we had contrived it, and ſnatching it from between my legs behind, ran away with it; upon which I uſed to roar out, as if I had been utterly ruined, and undone; ſo pretending to ſpeed after to regain my hat, as ſoon as we got out of ſight, we ſat down and ſhared the booty.

One day, going along the market by myſelf, I ſaw a ſmall baſket of cherries, when they were but juſt come into ſeaſon, and very ſcarce; I aſked the woman who ſold them, what ſhe would have for as many as I could take up in my hand; ſhe looking upon it, and ſeeing it was but a very ſmall one, proportionable to my ſtature, ſaid, two-pence; whereupon I laid down her price, and, taking up the baſket with all the cherries in it, walked off in a very ſober pace. The woman, ſur-

ſurprized at being thus bit by a younker, followed me, and, making a great noiſe, gathered a crowd about us; among the reſt, a gentleman of conſiderable faſhion, who was very earneſt to know what was the matter; ſo holding my purchaſe faſt in my hands, for I was very unwilling to part with the only booty I had ever yet obtained fairly; I deſired the gentleman to be the judge between us, and thereupon related to him in what manner I had bargained with the woman, and ſaid I had done nothing but what was agreeable to our contract. The gentleman, pleaſed with my wit and my impudence, laughed heartily, and condemned the cherries to my own uſe, but withal paid the poor woman for them.

I WAS ſo naturally prone to pleaſe my ſenſes, that I cared not what courſe I took ſo I obtained my ends; but, perhaps, had not put my invention ſo much on the

tenters,

tenters, if I had any thing allowed me for a moderate expence; but my mother thought otherwiſe, knowing the extravagance of my inclinations, and therefore debarred me as much as ſhe could from the very ſight of money. Rivers confined within artificial mounds, diverting nature's courſe, will, when thoſe are overthrown, which impeded their progreſs, flow with the greater impetuoſity.

THUS youth may for a while be circumſcribed in its deſires; but when their inclinations prompt them to the enjoyment of ſenſual delights, ſooner or later they will have their ſwing, and the earlier the better, for then before the meridian of life, experience may reform their manners; but it is commonly obſerved, that men, who, in the afternoon, or declenſion of their lives, deviate into the fatal tracks of vice, ſeldom return, or are ſtopt

in their paſſage by any thing but death itſelf. Thus much by way of digreſſion.

The ſchool-maſter I was now with, being much indiſpoſed, and not able to come into the ſchool, would ſend for his boarders often into his bed-chamber, and give us inſtructions there. A gentleman one day having ſent his ſon five guineas to pay for his ſchooling, board, &c. our maſter receiving them, called for a ſmall cabinet that ſtood in the room, which I, more officious than the reſt, ran and brought to him. The old man, having put his gold into it, ordered me to carry it to the place from whence I had it. This cabinet, though but ſmall, was very heavy, which made me imagine there muſt be a great deal of money in it, ſo I reſolved with myſelf to make it my prize. The Devil, being my tutor, ſuggeſted many ways to my thoughts to accompliſh my villainous deſign; and at laſt I determined upon getting an impreſſion of the

key

key in wax, and have another made by it; but when I had obtained this, with much difficulty, and carried it to a ſmith about four miles off, the old fellow, immediately, upon my preſenting it to him, began to aſk me abundance of queſtions, with a very ſuſpicious countenance, and I, not knowing what anſwers to make him, betook myſelf to my heels; upon which, the ſmith, thinking to make ſome advantage to himſelf, by a diſcovery of my deſign, took to his heels likewiſe, to purſue me, with a red-hot iron in his hand, which his haſte had made him forget to lay aſide; but when he was juſt come up with me, a man ſtanding by, and ſeeing him with that terrible weapon in his hand, fearing his blind paſſion might urge him to do me ſome miſchief, that he might afterwards be ſorry for, very fairly laid the ſmith upon his back, who, in the fall, gave himſelf a burnt mark in the hand, which, no doubt, he had long be-

fore deſerved; my unknown friend would not ſuffer him to riſe, 'till I was quite out of ſight, and ſo I got clear of this apprehenſion. Deſpairing afterwards to do any good by the ſame way, I reſolved on another, and tried a pick-lock of my own invention; but that would not effect my deſign neither, ſo I concluded to take cabinet and all: in order whereunto, I watched my opportunity 'till my maſter was walked abroad for the air, and then, ſlipping into his chamber, concealed myſelf under the bed, 'till I found the coaſt clear, and then I conveyed myſelf and my purchaſe out of the houſe, travelling all night, till I came to a little village about ſixteen miles from the place I ſat out at.

BELIEVING myſelf now perfectly ſecure, I thought it would be requiſite to repoſe my wearied limbs; therefore I went into a ſmall inn, and called for a pint of

ſack,

ſack, having heard much talk of that liquor, but never taſted it. I now began to ruminate upon my great treaſure, and how I ſhould diſpoſe of it, when the maſter of the houſe brought in the wine, and having viewed me very attentively, and often throwing his eyes upon the caſket, aſked me abundance of impertinent queſtions, as I thought them, as, Whence I came? Whither I was going? And what I had got? But before I had time to anſwer him, in came the conſtable with a hue-and-cry after me, which immediately ſtruck my mounting hopes as flat as a frying-pan, for both myſelf and my treaſure were laid hold of, and hurried away, even without giving me time to taſte my rich liquor.

Upon the news of what had happened, various were the diſcourſes of the people that were gathered about me: "This ſays one, is a prime rogue to begin ſo ſoon: he would have ſtolen ſomething

out of his mother's belly, ſaid another, if he could have ſeen there. Well, cried a third, it is an old ſaying, Forward fruit is ſoon rotten; and ſince he has began to ſteal while he is a child, he will be hanged before he is a man." Every old woman in the town had a fling at me; and, ready to die with fear, I was ſent back to my maſter, who, having compaſſion on my youth, would not give me up to public juſtice, but made me a priſoner in his own houſe, 'till he could acquaint my mother with what had paſſed. I was not quite ſtarved in my confinement, but my commons were very much epitomized; neither was I altogether without company, for my maſter daily viſited me with a cat-of-nine-tails, with which he fleed my buttocks, and when he found me ſtubborn, or not penitent enough, as he thought, he would waſh my raw poſteriors with an agreeable pickle of ſalt and water.

WITHIN

WITHIN a week my mother arrived; who, being acquainted with this my early thievery, was ſo impatient, that ſhe would needs take me to taſk herſelf, but when ſhe had untruſt me, and ſaw me in ſo woeful a plight, my tender breach plowed up and harrowed, and my ſhirt as ſtiff as buckram with blood, her anger failed, and ſhe fell down in a ſwoon; but, being come to herſelf again by the aſſiſtance of my maſter, he took pains to convince her how neceſſary it was to bend a twig before it came to a tree, and that great puniſhments were due to great crimes; and then proceeded to tell her of many other of my tricks and rogueries: and firſt began with a prank I had played one of his maids, who, having croſſed me, to be revenged of her, as ſhe was one day fallen aſleep by the fire, I took that opportunity to melt ſome glew, and gently touched the cloſure of both her eye-lids with a pencil, which I well knew would lock up her ſight.

Againſt

Againſt the time I intended to wake her, I placed before her all the chairs and ſtools in the kitchen, then pretending her miſtreſs called ſuddenly, the wench ſtarted up, and, running, rubbing her eyes, turned topſide turvy over the chairs, trying to get up, ſhe engaged with ſtools, and endeavouring to untangle herſelf, her petticoats acted the part of traytors, and diſcovered the moſt valuable ſecrets of the ſex. My maſter went on, that he did not doubt but I had great ſatisfaction in my revenge; but the poor wench had like to have gone diſtracted, for ſhe could not be perſuaded but that ſhe was ſtruck with blindneſs, as a judgment for ſome heinous ſin ſhe had privately committed, and was about to confeſs all; when the glew, with a great deal of care and trouble, was picked from her eye-lids, and ſhe reſtored, by that means, to her ſight.

The next thing the old pedagogue recounted to my mother was, how, when he went about to correct me for the laſt-mentioned piece of roguery with the maid, I had ſerved him a very ſhitten trick indeed, for having made myſelf laxative on purpoſe, at the firſt laſh he gave me I very filthily ſquirted in his face. Another time, he ſaid, I had watched a parcel of luſty young girls, who went to waſh themſelves in a fine ſummer's night, in a ſmall brook a little way out of town, and that, as ſoon as they were in the water, I ſtole away their cloaths, and forced them to dance home ſtark-naked, in the view of ſome of their ſweethearts, whom I had fetched to a bye-place for that purpoſe.

My maſter related a great many more ſuch tricks that he knew, but thoſe were not a tenth-part of what he knew not. As for example; on Chriſtmas-day we had

had a large pot of plumb-pottage made for the family, of which, when it was taken off the fire, I desired the maid to give me a taste, to see if I liked it; this was the same maid whose eyes I had glewed up; and therefore you may be assured she was very ready to oblige me, so she takes up a ladle-full, and bad me sup, holding the ladle in her own hand, and I indiscreetly gaping wider than I ought, she poured the whole ladle-full of scalding pottage down my throat: I could not possibly tell her how I liked it, at that time, but I verily thought I had swallowed the Devil; I took no notice of this passage at the instant, resolving to retalliate her kindness when she the least thought on it. I observed that she carried the great pot of pottage, that I could not lift, to the kitchen-door in the yard, whilst she went up stairs with a piece of roast beef; I likewise observed that it was near to the jack-weight, which wound up under a small pent-

pent-houſe; the roaſt-meat being but juſt taken up, and the jack down, I ſuddenly removed the weight, and faſtened the pot to the line, ſo, returning to the kitchen, wound it up to the top. The maid ſoon after looking for her pot, put the whole houſe in an uproar with the out-cry ſhe made about it, every one wondering what could become of it, for ſhe averred that it was there but that minute, and none but the Devil could have removed it. We had an old Puritan in the houſe, as every place was then infeſted with them, who was very certain that it was a judgment for our ſuppoſing one day more holy than another, and preparing ſuch a ſuperſtitious and prophane meſs; but the miracle ceaſed the next day, when, upon putting down the roaſt meat, the pottage pot deſcended again by the jack-line.

ANOTHER time my maſter had reſerved in his garden ſome choice apricots, not above

above half a score, with which he purpoſed to treat ſome friends, who were ſhortly to viſit him. The daily ſight of this delicate forbidden fruit moſt ſtrongly tempted me to commit a rape upon it, but I made choice of an unpropitious hour, for my maſter looked out of his window, and ſaw me gather them; tho', being weak-ſighted, he could not abſolutely tell whether it was I or no. Hereupon he preſently ſummoned all the boys together; being met, I quickly gueſſed at the meaning of it, and ſo ſlily conveyed the apricots into another's pocket: I had no ſooner done this, but we were ordered to be ſearched. I was very forward to be the firſt, though the moſt ſuſpected; and nothing being found upon me, I was acquitted. But to ſee with what amazement the poor boy gaped and ſtared when the apricots were taken out of his pocket, how ſtrangely he looked, diſtorting his face into a thouſand different forms, it

produced

produced laughter even from my incenſed maſter; but real pity from me, for he was moſt ſeverely whipped for the crime I had committed.

I COULD relate many more ſuch childiſh rogueries, did I not fear to tire the reader with the recital of my juvenile follies: therefore ſhall return to where I left off. Whilſt my mother was in conſultation with my maſter and her own prudence, how ſhe ſhould diſpoſe of me, not willing to wait the reſult, I ſlipped down ſtairs, and, getting into the ſtreet, took my heels, reſolving to throw myſelf upon fortune, and ramble the wide world at a venture.

Thus head-ſtrong folly raſhly ſpurr'd me on,
With early ſteps, in haſte to be undone.

CHAP. II.

His behaviour in the beginning of his rambles, and the fright he was in by being unexpectedly ſurrounded by a company of gypſies. Liſts himſelf among them. The order they obſerve. Leaving the Gypſies, follows the begging trade. The tricks he played in that vocation.

IT was in the month of July when I went out on my firſt knight-errantry, the fineneſs of the ſeaſon much favoured my enterprize, and thinking I ſhould always enjoy ſuch weather, and never be pinched with cold or neceſſity, I purſued my way courageouſly. I rambled up and down the fields to view the harveſt, and, for want of other proviſions, made a dinner of nuts and blackberries, which, at that time, I thought very delicious fare, and the more ſo, as I had nobody now to controul me. Night coming on, I was

to think of a lodging, and plainly perceived that I muſt forego my down-bed for a hay-cock, and was like to have no coverlid but the canopy of Heaven: however, as I had no leſſon to con over-night, nor the dread of over-ſleeping myſelf in the morning, I laid myſelf down and reſted pretty comfortably, but not without ſome frightful dreams; the laſt was of a cat-of-nine-tails, which made me cry out and awake myſelf.

Now had the early lark, with warbling notes, proclaimed the roſy fingered morn's approach, who, in her ſaffron robe, ſwept over the mountains top: when I, ſtarting from my rural couch, renewed my wandering progreſs; but, in ſpite of all my former reſolution, ſad and melancholic thoughts came into my mind, when I reflected not only on the grief I had left my mother in, but upon my own condition rambling I knew not whither, with-

out money or friends; and, above all, hunger began to pinch me, for the wild and raw diet I found on the hedges was no longer pleaſant to me; but weathering that day with ſome diſcontent, the next night I got into a barn, where, being heartily tired, I bleſſed my good fortune, and tumbled over head-and-ears in clean ſtraw. I had not lain here above an hour before I heard a noiſe, and peeping out of my neſt to ſee what was the matter, the day being ſhut in, I could but juſt diſcern a great many ſtrange creatures come into the barn. My thoughts preſently repreſented to my mind all I had heard of hobgoblins, fairies, and the like, and I imagined theſe could be no other; my belief was confirmed by their uncouth garb, guage I underſtood not, but which I have ſince learned to be canting. I lay ſtill as long and their talking to one another in a lan- as my fears would permit me, but when they began to ſurround me, I could con-

tain

tain no longer, but cried out aloud, "Great Lord, have mercy on me, and "ſuffer not theſe Devils to devour me:" and with that ſtarted from among them, and got out of the barn, but they taking me for a ſprite, or the ghoſt of ſome murdered perſon that haunted the place, were in as much fear as I, and fell likewiſe to running, leaving their children behind them; and I finding them, notwithſtanding all the ſpeed I made, juſt at my heels, fell down upon my knees to prayers, by which means they came up with me, and perceiving that I was a likely lad, they intreated me to go back with them, and ſaid, they would do me no harm; but I had heard the Devil was a liar from the beginning, therefore I would not believe them. They would have raiſed me from my devotion, telling me it was enough, and that made me ſuſpect them the more, thinking they wanted to get me out of a praying poſture, that they might have the more power over me.

Not being ſoon prevailed upon, they vowed and proteſted they would not injure me, and that if I would go with them I ſhould eat, drink, and fare as they did; this was a powerful argument with an empty ſtomach, and ſo I returned with them to the barn. All their cry now was for rum-booze, *i. e.* good liquor, whereupon their Captain commanded out four able Maunders [beggars] ordering them to ſtrole to the next town, every one going apart. The country people ſoon gave them drink, fearing they might fire their houſes elſe in the night; others of the more ignorant ſort thought they could raiſe ſpirits to hurt them, or bewitch their cattle, therefore would not deny them, ſo that in a ſhort time they returned laden with liquor: it was preſently placed in the middle of us, who ſat in a circle, then out came their wooden diſhes, with which every one was provided but myſelf, but I was ſoon ſupplied by a young Rum-mort

that

that ſat next me, intended for my ſporting mate, Every one taking his cup in hand, a health went round to the Prince of Maunders, another to the great Duke of Clapperdogeons, a third to the Marquis of Doxy-dels and Rum-morts, and a fourth to the Earl of Clymes; titles which perhaps the readers are unacquainted with, as I was at that time; but I ſoon learned what they meant, and intend to communicate my knowledge to them in its due time. Moſt part of the night we ſpent in boozing, pecking rumly, or wapping, that is, drinking, eating, and whoring.

JEALOUSY is a paſſion that they never give way to in this ſociety. The males and females lie promiſcuouſly together, and it is free for any of the fraternity to make choice of what doxy he likes beſt, and change when he pleaſes. They plied me ſo cloſe with rum-booze, (as they call-

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ed it) and pleaſed me ſo well in giving me a young girl to dally with, who, though in rags, and a ſkin artificially diſcoloured, had charms enough to make me very happy, and, for her ſake, I was reſolved to liſt into the ragged regiment, which reſolution I firſt acquainted my doxy with, and ſhe told it to the reſt of the fraternity, who, well pleaſed, tipt a gage of booze round to my health, and then we all coutcht a hogſhead, that is, went to ſleep for that night.

THE next morning, to fit me for the the ſociety, my new companions began with ſtripping me, then ſold my own garments to cloath me in rags, which they pinned about me, giving here and there a ſtitch, as neceſſity ſeemed to require. When we entered our libkin, or lodging at night, we were not uſed to pull off our cloaths, and indeed had I been forced to it, I know not how I ſhould have got them

on

on again. My face they ſtained with green walnut-ſhells, ſo that any one who ſaw me could not but take me for a true tawny ſon of Egypt. Before we proceed on our march, let me give you an account of our leaders, and the ranks we were diſpoſed in. Our Chief Commander was called by the name of Ruffeler, the next to him the Upright-man, the reſt in the following order:

1. Hookers or Anglers.—2. Priggers of Prancers.—3. Pallyards.—4. Fraters. 5. Priggs.—6. Swadlers.—7. Curtals.—8. Iriſh Toyle.—9. Swigmen.—10. Jarkemen.—11. Patricoes.—12. Kitchen Coes. 13. Abram-Men.—14. Whip-Jacks.—15. Counterfeit-Cranks.—16. Dommerars.—17. Glymmerers.—18. Bawdy-Baſkets.—19. Autem-Morts.—20. Doxies. 21. Dells.—22. Kitchen-Morts.

We muſtered above threeſcore, old and young; and becauſe we were too great

great a company to march together, we were divided into three ſquadrons. The firſt ſquadron that led the van was ordered by our Commander, to ſtick up ſmall boughs all the way they went, that we might know what courſe they ſteered. For, like wild-fowl, we flew one after another, and, though we were ſeparated, yet, like water divided with a ſword, we eaſily came together again. As the Switzer hath his wench and his cock with him when he goes to the wars, and almoſt every ſoldier in the Scotiſh army the geud wife and bearns following him; ſo had we every one his doxy, carrying her lullaby-cheat at her back, and another in her arms. When they are wearied with the burthen, they put them in a pair of panniers, like green geeſe going to market, or mackarel in doſſers coming from Rye. And here it is to be noted, that each diviſion hath a ſmall horſe or two, or at leaſt aſſes to caſe them of their loads.

Some of us were antickly clad, with bells and other toys merely to allure the country people, and draw them about us, which commonly anſwered our ends. For in many places they would flock to us in great numbers, and then was the time to make our markets. We pretended an intimate acquaintance with the ſtars, being deſcendents from the Egyptian Magi, the the founders of the aſtrologic art; and that the miniſters of the fates were our familiars: ſo poſſeſſing the ignorant people with a belief that we could tell their fortunes by looking into their hands or faces, whilſt we ſeemed to be ſeriouſly inſpecting thoſe, ſome of our diving companions picked their pockets, or with a ſhort ſharp knife, and an horn upon their thumb, cut a hole in their purſes. By aſking the ſilly wench queſtions we could often gather from their own mouths the propereſt anſwers to make them; then would they ſtare, and, full of admiration,

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perfectly tremble to hear the truth come out of the mouths of those whom they thought strangers to their actions; by this art from many we gained great respect accompanied by fear.

Thus we rambled up and down the country; and when the people treated us uncivily, we made their lambs, pigs, and poultry, pay for it: our kitchen and dining-room were commonly some furzy heath, or a gravel-pit, and our lodging the barns, or out-houses of farmers and husbandmen, which we chose in some straggling village where the inhabitants dared not to refuse our request, for fear they should find their thatched houses too hot to hold them before morning. After we had supped, we seldom went to sleep without good store of rum-booze, and some merry caseches in our own canting dialect, an alphabetical vocabulary of which, for the satisfaction and instruction of

of the reader, I will place at the concluſion of this work. Our catches were, for the moſt part, too ſmutty to be inſerted here: however, as a ſpecimen, I ſhall give you the begining of one of them.

Being out bien Morts, and toure and toure,
Being out bien Morts and toure,
For all your duds are bing'd a waſt
The bien Cove hath the loure.

I met a dell, I view'd her well,
She was benſhip to my watch;
So ſhe and I did ſtall and cloy,
Whate'er we could catch.

This doxy dell can cut bien whids,
And wap well for a win;
And prig and cloy ſo benſhiply,
All the deuſea-vile within.

The boyle was up, we had good luck,
In froſt for and in ſnow:
When they did ſeek, then we did creep,
And plant in Ruff-man's low.

THE firſt inventor of canting, as I have been informed, was hanged about fourſcore years ago; ſuch gibberiſh was never known before; but, ſince his time, there have not been wanting thoſe who have undertaken to poliſh and augment it. Gibberiſh is a ſtrange invention of words, grounded on no certain rules; and no wonder, ſince the practitioners therein are all fathers and nurſes of diſorder: yet, even in their irregularity, a man may obſerve ſome kind of form, and ſome words looking a little like ſcholarſhip. As Togeman, a gown, from Toga: Pannam, from Panis, bread, Coſan, Caſeus, cheeſe; the Adjective Bien, is plainly borrowed from the French, and ſignifies Good or Well. Cove, or Cuffin, are the general names for a Man; but by adding Bien, or Quire, which is, wicked, or knaviſh; Cove will ſtand either for an honeſt Man, or a Juſtice of the Peace.

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THIS cant of the gypſies I ſoon grew a perfect maſter of, as well as of all their cuſtoms and manners, and could Mill, Maunder, Plant, and cut the bien whids with the beſt of them; but my roving fancy would not ſuffer me to continue long at any time, and I grew not only tired of my doxy in particular, but of the whole gang, and reſolved to betake myſelf to a new trade. Having acquired a competent ſhare of boldneſs, I began to travel the country and beg by myſelf; but ſoon thought my time paſſed very uncomfortably without a companion, all creatures coveting ſociety, but more eſpecially man; at length, I found one to my wiſhes, whoſe long practice in the trade had gained him ſo much ſkill as to be able to furniſh me with the knowledge of any thing belonging to the liberal art of begging. We ſtrait betook ourſelves to the boozing-ken, or ale-houſe, and, having bubbed rumly, we concluded an everlaſt-

ing friendſhip. Then did he recount to me what was moſt worthy of obſervation in the profeſſion. Firſt, He tuned my voice to that pitch which might moſt of all raiſe compaſſion: next, he inſtructed me in what form of prayer I was to make my addreſſes on different occaſions, varying according to the humour of the perſons I begged of, which I might gather from their habit and geſture. Then he told me when we came to London, he would bring me acquainted with the places and times there that were moſt fit for our purpoſe; but began his inſtructions as we travelled along: you ought not, ſaid he, to be too importunate with ſome, always wiſhing well, and loudly praying for the health and ſafety, eſtate, and limbs of ſuch as deny you alms; but more eſpecially when they do not, be ſure to bleſs their worſhips, or good miſtreſſes, begging Heaven to reward them for what they had done here upon earth. If any,

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continued he, ſhould pity your nakedneſs, and cloath you in garments without holes, you muſt wear them no longer than while you are in the donor's ſight, reſerving your rags to re-inveſt yourſelf, and ſell the other, as unfit and ſcandalous to your profeſſion. We are never, ſaid he, to beg far from one another, and at nights we will faithfully ſhare our gains. Then he informed me how to make all ſeeming ſores and lameneſſes; and how to contrive places in the tatters and rags for private conveyance. If you ſee a door open, ſays he, go boldly in, and, if you meet any in your way, then, in a very ſubmiſſive manner, implore their help in relieving your great neceſſities, if it be but with any thing of the ſmalleſt value, one half-penny, farthing, or a broken cruſt, pretending not to have eat a morſel in two days; but, if the paſſage be clear, whip up what comes neareſt to hand.

He next told me, that I muſt be ſure to riſe very early in the morning, that thoſe who paſſed by might ſuppoſe I had no other lodging, but what a bulk or a gate-way afforded; that very often procuring relief from pitiful-hearted people. When it grows duſk, if you meet a man by himſelf, you may accoſt him firſt in a ſupplicating poſture, till you come near enough to knock him down with a truncheon, which you muſt ſtill have concealed about you for that purpoſe: this may be done very ſecurely, and many times produces good booty.

Full fraught with theſe, and many more uſeful precepts, which my learned friend delivered to me, we proceeded on our journey; but had not gone very far before we were ſurprized by the Conſtable, as two ſturdy vagrants, and both ſoundly whipped; a bad handſel in my new calling! To avoid this danger for the future,

future, we miſſed all the towns of any conſiderable note in our way, and only frequented the villages. Many petty rogueries we committed as we paſſed along, but none worth troubling the reader with, unleſs the following may divert him.

TRAVELLING the field-way, we ſtumbled on a Tinker and his trull, lying by a hedge-ſide, I could not tell what to make of them at firſt, they lay ſo ſtill, but with much pulling and ſhaking they awaked. I aſked them what they lay there for? They anſwered me, that they had been lately bitten by a ſerpent, in a place adjacent, a moſt powerful creature of a vaſt body, which had bit ſeveral people beſides themſelves: this ſeemed very ſtrange to us, who had heard no report of it; to be ſhort, I deſired them to ſhew us the place where he was to be found, which they readily aſſented to, and brought

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us to an ale-houſe, the ſign of the ſerpent, where a cup of double-brewed beer was ſold, and humming liquor it was. The people of the houſe liked the Tinker and his female comrade well enough, but would not admit us into a room, 'till we had ſhewn that we had got the cole, that is, money about us; for indeed our veſtments were like the ſweepings of the Rag-merchant's yard; but when we were once entered we drank ſo ſtiffly that we preſently laid the woman aſleep again: the Tinker ſtill bore up tightly, but before madam had ſlept long, ſhe ſtarted out of her chair, and, pulling up her petticoats, in our preſence, piſſed in the middle of the room, and then ſat herſelf down again, not yet awake; this action could not but produce much laughter in my comrade and myſelf. At laſt the Tinker fell aſleep too, and then we began to think how we might make ſomething of them; we ranſacked their pockets, but found little there;

there; when afterwards ſearching the woman in a private place, between her pocket and placket, we there diſcovered ſomething very conſiderable; which done, we reſolved to leave them, but firſt tied a pewter-pot to each of their girdles behind, to which we fixed a label, and ſo marched off. The hoſt ſeeing us go out of the doors with more than ordinary ſpeed, ran into the room where the Tinker and his lady were, and preſently waked them, telling them we were gone. Hearing this, they haſtily ſtarted up, and ran reeling to overtake us: the maſter of the houſe ſeeing his pots dangling at their breech, ran likewiſe after them, crying, "Stop them, ſtop them, ſtop the thieviſh Tinker, and ſtop the whore with my pot! We were wiſer than to ſtay to hear how the Tinker and his trull came off, but directed our courſe for London, the out-cry of mine hoſt of the ſerpent preſently alarmed his neighbours, who, joining with him, ſoon

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ſeized the Tinker and his Mort, and carried them back again, which gave us an opportunity to make our eſcape. The lines that were on the label we put to the Tinker's pot, to the beſt of my remembrance, were theſe:

Your ſerpent only ſtings, or bites ſo deep,
To numb the ſenſe, and lay men faſt aſleep:
But wit can ſharper bite. I'll ſay no more,
You've paid for ſleeping; now pray pay
the ſcore.

Thoſe on the woman's pot as follow:

'Twas not the ſerpent, but ſtrong beer that
ſtung,
The vent being ſtopt, the drink work'd thro'
the bung.

I HAD like to forgot another paſſage that happened on the road; beating the hoof we overtook a cart, in which were a ſqua-

a ſquadron of the Tatterdemalion regiment; ſome pretendedly blind, others with their legs tied up in ſlings; a third ſort with the dead palſy all over one ſide; a fourth ſo lame as if they had never been ſtung with ſinews. We fell into diſcourſe with them, and aſked them whither they were bound, thus carted? They anſwered, every one for his country, we have already been jerked at the whipping-poſt, and now enjoy the benefit of a paſs. The ſurly rogue of a carter, obſerving us talking to his paſſengers, Why, how now, gentlemen, ſaid he, how did you drop out of the cart's tail? What do you go on foot and your brethren ride? By no means, pray eaſe your legs, come, I will lend you a hand. I was juſt about to make a reply, when a fellow paſſed by, who was acquainted with the carter, and aſked him, What he was going to do with thoſe cripples? I am going, ſaid he, by order of the Mayor and Corporation, to Killum, a town, it ſeems, on the borders of Oxfordſhire.

fordſhire. Hearing this, I knew not what to think on it, but, conſulting the aſpect of the carted crew, I diſcovered a ſtrong ſenſe of their danger in every face, and perceived that their thoughts were wholly employed upon their eſcape, which they ſoon put in execution: for forthwith the ſtrings were cut that tied up their legs, and down they ſlipped ſilently out of the cart, one after another, for fear of a diſcovery; the blind could ſee their way, and the paralitic ran as faſt as bucks. The fellow drove on ſtill, not immediately miſſing his company; but at length, turning about, he ſaw one running this way, another that, a third hiding himſelf in a buſh, and all diſperſed: harkee, harkee, ſaid he, are you running from honeſty ye made ſuch haſte; I could hear one diſtinctly anſwer him, No, ſirrah, but we are running from ſuch a murderous rogue as you; Did not you tell your friend, juſt now, that you were going to kill us? The

Carter,

carter, ſurly as he was, could not help laughing at their miſtake; and whoever had ſeen the various poſtures theſe impoſtors put themſelves in, through their cauſeleſs fear, could not but have joined with him in it. This miſtake puts me in mind of one of the ſame kind, but whoſe cataſtrophe was more fatal, that happened during the time of the Iriſh rebellion. A Proteſtant trooper meeting a ſcullogue, or a countryman, in the height of the maſſacre, demanded of him from whence he came? The poor Iriſhman anſwered, from Killvanium; he then aſked whither he was going? To Killmore, ſaid he, theſe are two towns not a great way aſunder: No, by G—d, replied the ſoldier, you ſhall kill no more, and ſo piſtoled him on the ſpot.

* But to return: my company and I, as ſoon as we came to London, croſſed the water, and went to viſit his old friends

in Kent-ſtreet; where he preſently fell to work to put himſelf in an equipage, fit for the employment we were engaged in. He had no Occaſion to alter his habit, but he wanted ſome climes, that is, according to the beggar's nomenclator, counterfeit ſores; and, in an hour's time, by the aſſiſtance of ſome of the fraternity, he had ſuch a leg as would ſhock any one to look at; which they made in this manner: they took unſlaked lime and ſoap, mingled with the ruſt of old iron, theſe being well tempered together, they ſpread thick upon two pieces of leather, and applied to his leg, binding it very heard, which, in a ſhort time, ſo fretted the ſkin, that the fleſh appeared all raw; then they rubbed it over with blood, and, when that was dry, the leg looked black, and was to be ſeen through four or five holes in dirty clouts. This one would think no garb to make love in, yet my friend had very ſoon got his doxy, with a couple of children,

children; one to carry in her arms, and the other to lead. Now away we all went to Moorfields; he would have made me a clime too, but I had no ſtomach to accept of his kindneſs. Coming into the fields, he planted me in a convenient place, the doxy with her lullaby-cheats in another, and himſelf in a third; we were not to be far diſtant, that one might catch the others maunding at the rebound. I diligently obſerved all that was done by my very honeſt friend, for my own information. One would have ſworn he had been really and abſolutely lame; for, being about to lie down, he ſlid to the earth by his ſtaff, and, as ſoon as he was on the ground, diſtorted his countenance in ſuch a manner, and poured forth ſuch lamentable complaints, with ſuch earneſt prayers to all tender-hearted Chriſtians, as would have raiſed compaſſion in the moſt obdurate. I knew not how to tune my voice, for liſtening to him, which he obſerving,

would hold up his ſtick at me, when nobody was near, to put me in mind of my duty. Night approaching, we left off begging, reſolving to make ourſelves glad with what we had got: in the way home, I ſaw a very fine piece of beef lying on a butcher's ſtall, the woman, who ſhould have been looking to her ſhop, was telling a goſſip's tail to her neighbour, ſo earneſtly, that I thought I might ſeize my prey, without her knowing any thing of the matter: ſo I boldly ſnatched it up, which a perſon obſerving, in the oppoſite houſe, ran after me, and ſoon laid his unrighteous paws upon me. I was immediately brought back to the butchereſs, who was ſo wiſe, forſooth, that ſhe would not receive ſtolen goods, though they were her own, and ſo inraged, that I muſt forthwith go before the Juſtice, where my accuſation was aggravated by many feigned circumſtances, as that I had been obſerved to be ſeveral times lurking about the door,

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was known to be an old offender, though but a young lad, and that ſhe verily believed, nay, could almoſt take her oath, that I was the perſon who ſtole a loin of veal from her about a fortnight before. Down-caſt eyes, and a pitiful countenance, were all the rhetoric I uſed in my own defence, which the merciful Juſtice perceiving, they were ſo prevalent as to gain ſome favour from him; for aſking the woman what ſhe valued her beef at, and ſhe replying that ſhe would not have abated a farthing of five ſhillings. "Take heed, ſaid he, good woman, what you ſay, for, ſhould you ſwear this, it were enough to hang him. O Lord! marry forbid, cried ſhe, I would not hang him for the world. Then, ſaid his Worſhip, you muſt prize it at ten-pence:" with which the woman being content, the beef was conveyed into the Magiſtrates kitchen, and my mittimus made for Newgate.

But madam, now thinking ſhe might receive her goods again, without any danger, demanded her beef of the Juſtice, he told her he would buy it of her, and aſked what he muſt give her for it? She told him five ſhillings, ſhe could not afford it under indeed. "Why, how now, huſswife, huſswife, ſaid he, did you not ſwear it was worth but ten-pence; and ſo you now talk of five ſhillings? A meer cheat, an extortioner! make her mittimus, ſpeaking to his Clerk;" this ſo terrified the ignorant woman, that ſhe begged his Worſhip, with a piteous tone, not to ſend her to priſon, and he might do what he pleaſed with her. Whereupon the Juſtice looking ſtedfaſtly at her, and perceiving her to be a good pretty woman, ſmiled, yet ſeemed to reprove her ſharply, and at laſt pretending he had ſomething to ſay to her that he would not have every one hear, he took her into a back parlour, where they had not continued long toge-

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ther, before ſhe came out, and openly declared, that ſhe would never deſire to have more juſtice done her, than his good Worſhip had ſhewn her. And I underſtood afterwards, that ſhe was ſo well pleaſed with what he had ſaid and done, that ſhe ſent him a dozen bottles of French wine for a preſent, and came to ſup with him upon her own fleſh. In the mean time, I wiſhed them both choaked, for never did poor Papiſt endure ſeverer penance for eating fleſh on a Good-Friday than I for coveting this; (I have loved capon the better for it ever ſince:) for I was no ſooner got into the ſtreet, but I had an hundred people about me, crying, Which is the young rogue? This, this, cried a journeyman butcher, when, pretending to lay his hand on my ſhoulder, he gave me a moſt terrible nip by the ear, which made me roar out ſo loudly, and unexpectedly, that my gentleman-uſher, who was leading me by the arm to the chequer inn

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in Newgate-ſtreet, ſtarting, let go his hold. There was no dallying with ſo fair an opportunity; fear, and the love of ſweet liberty, ſo winged my feet that I was ſoon got out of their reach, the Harmanbeck, or Conſtable, unable to follow himſelf, with a ton of guts before him, ſet a pack of young yelping curs after me, but they preſently loſt ſcent, and ſo I eſcaped for this time.

THE next day I went into Lincoln's-Inn-Fields, where, meeting with ſome of the ragged regiment, I ſingled out two or three, with whom I picked up a few pence at nine-holes, and at night was taken by them to their rendezvous in Broad St. Giles's; here we had a grand ſupper provided, with wine, beer, and other ſtrong liquors; every man, when we began to be merry, boaſting of his iniquity; but nothing ſhocked me ſo much, as a ſtory a young fellow told of his having napt a ſil-

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ver ſpoon that day from a charitable gentlewoman, who took him into her houſe, ſeeing him look as if he was ſick, and when ſhe had given him ſome hot broth, a good dinner, and ſix-pence in his pocket, the ungrateful villain, in return, piked off with her ſpoon. As I looked on this as a baſe piece of ingratitude, I could not but tacitly, within myſelf, both condemn and abhor ſuch ſociety, remembering, from the little I had learned at ſchool, thoſe words of Juvenal;

Ingratos ante omnia pone Sodales.

Of all perſons we ſhould moſt ſhun the ungrateful.

Nor could I forbear reading a public lecture on this vice: What, ſaid I, ſhall we find gratitude in beaſts, as in the lion that was healed by Andronicus in the wood, which afterwards ſaved his preſerver's life in the Ampitheatre; and yet ſhall not

not we admit this virtue to our hearts. I have ſomewhere read of an aſp that was kept and nouriſhed by an huſbandman at his own table, who daily fed her there; at laſt ſhe brought forth two young ones, one of which poiſoned the huſbandman's ſon; the old one, as my author affirms, in the ſight of the father, killed the offender; and, as if aſhamed of its ingratitude, departed the houſe with the other, and was never ſeen after. I would have proceeded, but they told me, I was enough to corrupt any ſociety, and they would have no man of my morals in their company: ſo I was forced to hold my tongue.

One day, as I was begging more fervently than uſual, having indeed had very ill ſucceſs all the morning, and my guts now beginning to grumble towards noon, it was my good fortune to be taken notice of by a good ſubſtantial tradeſman, who ſeemed to be extraordinarily pleaſed with my

my perſon and behaviour, and therefore aſked me many queſtions, as whence I came? What were my parents? And what I intended to do? To all which I anſwered with well-contrived forgeries, and ſuch as gave him great ſatisfaction; whereupon he bid me follow him, which I did accordingly to his own houſe, which was a very large and handſome one; here he preſented me to his wife, my intended miſtreſs, telling her his reſolution of entertaining me in his ſervice; "Bleſs me, ſaid ſhe, from what dunghill, ſweetheart, didſt thou take him? This thing dreſt up in ſippets, this ſcarecrow? What ſhall I call him?" For it is certain that I had no cloaths on but what were rather fit to dung the earth, or be ſent to the paper-mills, and, for ought I know, my preſent lucubrations may be penned upon part of my former habiliments. "Well, ſaid my maſter, reſt yourſelf ſatisfied, ſince it is my pleaſure to have him taken into the

family,

ſamily, the lad hath ſomething very promiſing in his countenance." Hereupon he ordered me to be ſtripped, and well waſhed; in the mean time cloaths were provided for me, a ſuit of one of his apprentices. A large veſſel, as big as Cornelius's tub, was filled with water to bathe me in, and ſo cunningly placed by the maids, though privately, that they might ſee me all over naked. It was my good luck to ſpy my miſtreſs, who had placed herſelf in a ſecret corner to ſee me diſmantled; and, after I was waſhed, ſhe was pleaſed to commend the whiteneſs of my ſkin, and the juſt proportion of my limbs, and I afterwards found that ſhe had diſcovered ſome charms in me that ſtrangely tickled her fancy; for I was then a ſtubbed full-grown lad. Being now cloathed, and raiſed to this unexpected good fortune, I was not a little puffed up, however I reſolved to carry myſelf diſcreetly, leſt I ſhould overthrow the ſtate

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I was in, not yet thoroughly ſettled. Wherefore I behaved very reſpectfully to my maſter, and ſerved him as punctually as I could, endeavouring that my ſervice ſhould requite his favours as far as my abilities would permit me; for, as I have obſerved before, I had, in the beginning of my life, a deep ſenſe of gratitude.

My endeavours were not only to pleaſe my maſter, but my miſtreſs likewiſe, being ſo very diligent in the meaneſt offices, that I was ready to perform the part of a chamber-maid. The maid ſervants I alſo obliged by doing their duty, making the fires, waſhing the kitchen, and cleaning the windows. I took care to bear no tales, taking this for an undeniable good maxim, that nothing more recommends a ſervant than a ſilent tongue, and a complaiſant carriage. My maſter, ſometimes a little out of humour, would find ſome ſlight fault with me, but I never made

any reply, knowing, that what I might alledge in my juſt vindication, would ſerve only to aggravate his paſſion, which would the more eaſily ſubſide, if left only to the operation of his own good-nature. To try my fidelity, he would ſometimes leave a ſix-pence upon the counter, or in the window, as if forgot; but I was too cunning to be caught ſo. One day, ſending me out to buy ſomething, inſtead of a ſhilling, among other money, he gave me a piece of gold; I took no notice of it then, but going a little way, I came running back, quite out of breath, to reſtore the gold: theſe, and ſome other things of the like kind, made him ſtand amazed at my ſeeming honeſty. A ſtrange alteration you will ſay; but all this was only to gain the more reputation, by which moſt men have the better opportunity to cheat. It is true, I underwent a great deal of pain, and had my patience often tried to the height; yet I was well rewarded in

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the end, and might have lived comfortably had not the baſeneſs of my nature prompted me to abuſe the kind gifts of providence. I had ſo much the good opinion of my maſter, that he raiſed me from one ſtep to another; and, not underſtanding arithmetic, he cauſed a maſter to come home to inſtruct me in it, to capacitate me to keep his books, which was at that time the height of my ambition; the Devil ſuggeſting to me, that I ſhould then have it in my power to make my own fortune at his coſt, notwithſtanding my former ſentiments of gratitude.

BEING arrived at this high ſtation, as I then thought it, the better to colour one vice I added another to it, that of Hypocriſy, pretending to be a moſt religious independent: I omitted no opportunity of going to their meetings; this riveted me in the good man's affections, eſpecially when he heard me, upon all occaſions,

railing at ſteeple-houſes, as they call churches; and tearing the biſhop's lawn ſleeves to rags; ſaying, they were remnants of the whore of Babylon's ſmock. I would pray mornings and evenings ſo loud, ſo late, and ſo early, that the neighbours could hardly ſleep for me, much leſs thoſe of our own family: notwithſtanding all this picty, not a day paſſed wherein I cheated not my maſter.

How much did I fondly deceive myſelf, thinking I was ſecure, becauſe no mortal eye diſcerned my iniquity: but, gentle reader, be not thus cheated, for aſſure yourſelf, that there is no darkneſs ſo thick which the All-ſeeing and eternal eye cannot penetrate.

Cernit Deus omnia vindex.

A PASSAGE remarkable I have read in Eraſmus, to this purpoſe, concerning a young

young gentleman, tempted by a wanton lady, who uſed this expreſſion as his laſt and beſt refuge. "Art thou not aſhamed to do that in the ſight of thy Maker, and his Holy Angels, which thou art aſhamed to do in the ſight of men?"

CHAP. II.

JEREMY becomes acquainted with ſeveral lewd apprentices. What trade they drove together, and the various ways they took to rob and defraud their maſters.

I WAS as officious at home as I was a ſtranger to all company abroad, never ſtirring out but upon my maſter's buſineſs, 'till our next neighbour's man intruded himſelf into my acquaintance; and, by degrees, ſo far inſinuated himſelf into my affections, that I ſuffer'd myſelf in a manner to be wholly ruled by him. Meeting him one day abroad, he would not be denied, but I muſt needs drink a glaſs of wine with him, and ſo he conducted me to a tavern, where the drawer, he told me, was his friend. After many kind compliments had paſſed, he ordered a pint of canary, for I had told him I was a great admirer of that liquor; whilſt the young fellow was gone for it, my neighbour began to tell me

me what a mighty honeſt man this Ralph the drawer was, and he very ſoon gave us a proof of it; for, immediately after, I heard him cry at the bar, ſcore a pint of white wine in the roſe; ſo there was eighteen-pence we had for a ſhilling. When this pint was out, ſack not being a liquor to ſit by, we called for a pint of red-port, which our friend brought us, and, withal, a bottle of French claret in his cod-piece, which, putting upon the table, now, gentlemen, ſaid he, drink at your pleaſure, you ſhall not want for liquor, my lads, when that is gone I can bring in another when I come to ſnuff your candles. This ſomewhat amazed me at firſt, but my neighbour Thomas told me, it was what was very frequently done by drawers to their friends, and he, and two or three more, have made themſelves ſometimes drunk, for ſix-pence a-head, with French wine, even burgundy and champaign, liquor that I had never before heard the names of.

" Come

"COME, come, ſaid he, you are but a novice yet; but if you will be governed by me, I will teach you how to make ſervitude ſit light upon you, by making you live as jovially as your maſter, without any of his carking or caring to buy neceſſaries, pay rent, ſatisfy creditors, and a thouſand other diſturbances that he and his friends were ſtrangers to."

I ASKED him how this could be done he anſwered, If I would ſwear to be ſecret and faithful, and become a brother of the ſociety, he would not only tell me how all this might be done, but bring me to the places where thoſe jolly blades, the fellowſhip apprentices were uſed to meet, and where I ſhould find more agreeable company than could be met with at a conventicle.

I was not long in conſenting to this propoſal, rejoicing exceedingly at this bleſſed oppor-

opportunity, as I thought it, of ſailing into the ocean of delight, and being permitted into ſuch grand company. Very eager I was to get him to inform my judgment in what at preſent I underſtood not, but did not doubt but that in a little time I ſhould be as forward as the foremoſt in all practicable roguery. Firſt, then he told me, that I muſt be ſure to inſinuate myſelf into the maid's favour, that, when occaſion required, ſhe might let me have the key of the ſtreet-door, or elſe ſit up for my return, making her ſenſible that ſhe did not break her reſt for nothing. If ſhe be modeſt, (continued he) which is indeed a thouſand to one, you muſt only kiſs her, and let all your expreſſions favour of Platonic love, or give her hopes of having you for a huſband, when you are a little ſettled in the world; if ſhe be buckſome, or wantonly inclined, ſhe will never be put off with hopes, promiſes, vows, and ſuch windy ſtuff, wherefore you muſt

kiſs,

kiſs, hug, and embrace her, telling her how dearly you love her, and then fall to ſomething elſe; ſhe may put you off at firſt with a piſh, and a fie, and a pray be civil, indeed I will not; but if you take her at her word, ſhe will never have an opinion either of your underſtanding or your manhood.

Now for the company I will bring you into, they are no leſs than linen and woollen-drapers, mercers, ſilkmen, hoſiers, haberdaſhers, grocers, goldſmiths, and toymen; to which are added, a drawer and an oilman; one to furniſh us with good liquor, and the other to prepare our palates for it. There are ſeveral trades, ſaid he, that are of no uſe to our commonwealth, ſuch as pewterers, braziers, plumbers, &c. their goods being, for the moſt part, not portable, and we want only thoſe that may fit our own perſons, be agreeable to our appetite, or eaſily turned into caſh. Every

one

one brings his ſeveral commodities to the place of meeting, and there we exchange or barter one for another; that is, for what each perſon reſpectively wants, either to ſupply his own occaſions, or thoſe of his miſtreſs; for, it is to be ſuppoſed, that every one of us has his mort, as ſhe is called in the beggar's language, (ay, thought I, I could have told you that) now when ſuch a one is procured ſhe muſt be maintained, though our maſters wives and children ſuffer for it at home; but you muſt take care, ſaid he, of not taking too much of one commodity at a time, for that may betray you.

All this I liked wonderfully well, and as I had been a thief already myſelf, I was pleaſed to find there were ſome ſuch in an higher ſtation of life, and indeed I was convinced afterwards, that no degree is exempt from the Profeſſors of the ſame art, and that not only commiſſioners and miniſters

miniſters of ſtate were thieves, but even kings and emperors had been the greateſt robbers and plunderers in the world. Pleaſed with the thoughts of thriving in the way that I had always an inclination to, I promiſed my friend Thomas, that I would certainly meet that day ſe'nnight, at the place appointed, and ſo we parted. Coming home, I immediately put the precepts my friend had given me in practice; firſt, taking notice what goods we had the greateſt quantity of, and whatſoever commodity my maſter forgot we had in the ſhop, that I ſecured as my own; and I would ſometimes try him in this manner; "Sir, ſaid I, there was a perſon to day enquiring for ſuch a thing, and I could not find it; perhaps then he would ſay, we have none." This anſwer was very agreeable to my purpoſe. Having taken a thorough view of the ſhop and warehouſe, I ſaw ſo many ways of advantage, if aſſiſted by a cleanly conveyance,

that.

that I could ſnip as well as the beſt of them.

THE next thing I had to do, was to ingratiate myſelf with the upper maid, who was one of them that lay concealed to ſee me waſhed in the tub, and, as ſhe afterwards confeſſed to me, took a liking to me from that hour. It required no long time to bring her to a compliance; but, before any buſineſs could be done, ſhe made me agree to the following preliminaries.

I. THAT, if ſhe proved with child, I ſhould marry her.

II. THAT I ſhould devote myſelf entirely to her ſervice, and to no others.

III. THAT we ſhould make uſe of all opportunities to enjoy one another.

IV. That, to prevent diſcovery, we ſhould often quarrel before people, in order to our better agreement in private.

She acted her part ſo well in purſuance of this laſt article, that ſhe would often throw plates or bones at my head as we ſat at dinner, and our ſeeming feuds were carried to that height, that our maſter was ſometimes called down to part us.

But ſo affable was ſhe, when, by ourſelves, that ſhe ſwore there was nothing that ſhe could do, in her power, to pleaſe or ſerve me. The night being come when I was to meet according to promiſe, I acquainted my Phillis with my intention of going out at eleven of the clock when my maſter and miſtreſs were gone to bed, and deſired ſhe would ſit up to let me in, which ſhe readily conſented to, after having an aſſurance from me, that I was not to meet any other woman.

THE firſt time I went to the brotherhood, I thought there was no occaſion to carry any goods with me, but to ſee how they managed matters. Being come to the houſe, I was introduced by my neighbour Thomas to the ſociety, in a private back-room. I was amazed to ſee ſuch variety of wares as were lying on a long table, ſilks, ſtuffs, cloth, linen, woollen, ſtockings, ribbons, hoods, handkerchiefs, &c. Some of the company came to me and welcomed me as a brother, drinking to me out of a large bowl of hot punch.

THE Merchants being now almoſt all met, they began to truck with each other for what they thought moſt convenient for themſelves or their friends; they offered me my choice of any thing there, but I told them I had brought nothing with me to make an exchange: for that matter, they ſaid, my credit was good, and credit was the ſoul of commerce, tell-

ing me they ſhould have occaſion to make uſe of me in the ſame way without all doubt. I took for the preſent, only a trifle that I thought might be acceptable to the maid, I was going to call her, at home. She accepted of my kindneſs with much gratitude, eſpecially as it was accompanied with many expreſſions and proteſtations of a never-dying affection, and was mighty ready to make me a return of all that was at her command, as I found by her griping my hand, her palpitation of heart, ſhort breathing, and rolling eyes, I quickly gueſſed at her meaning; and having convinced her by ſome certain proofs, that I had been in no other woman's company, I would have then gone to reſt in my own bed; but nothing would ſatisfy her, but that we muſt be bedfellows that night, although ſhe lay in a truckle in the ſame room with our maſter and miſtreſs. I deſired her to go up firſt, and that I would follow, if ſhe would put

out

out her candle and leave the door open. By that time I though ſhe was in bed, I began to creep up the ſtairs, which creek-ed at every ſtep as if they had conſpired to betray me, when I came to the laſt ſtair, I raiſed my foot, being fearful of making any noiſe, thinking there had been ano-ther, which miſtake brought it down with ſuch force, that it made the whole houſe echo. My maſter had that night taken a more than ordinary doſe of good old port, ſo that the noiſe awaked not him; but my miſtreſs imagining thieves were broke into the houſe, endeavoured to rouſe her huſband, but in vain, therefore ſhe thought it beſt to lie ſtill, and expect the event. In the mean time I lay perdue, not ſtirring 'till I imagined my miſtreſs was aſleep again; my damſel concluding I durſt not venture farther after the accident that had befallen me, compoſed herſelf to reſt. Finding, after a conſiderable time, all things ſtill and quiet, I entered the cham-

ber, which was as dark as I could wish it, but I happened to grope the contrary way, and, in a low voice, cried, Where are you; Here, here, ſaid my miſtreſs, in a whiſpering tone: minding from whence the ſound came, as near as I could, I directed my foot-ſteps to that place. The ſame words being repeated, conveyed me exactly to that ſide of the bed where my miſtreſs lay; taking her about the neck, I kiſſed her a thouſand times, not perceiving my miſtake, then made all the haſte I could to undreſs myſelf, which was done in an inſtant; but when I had opened the cloaths to get into bed, Hold, ſaid ſhe, I have a bed-fellow already, what I have ſuffered you to do was to make trial of you, and find out what you intended to do. Get you to your own bed to-night, and I ſhall talk farther with you to-morrow. The reader may eaſily imagine the ſurprize I was in, I durſt make no reply, but betook myſelf to my own chamber, thorough poſ-

ſeſſe I

ſeſſed with fear and ſhame, tumbling and toſſing all night, without taking one wink of ſleep.

I WAS up early in the morning, and ſhewed myſelf more than ordinarily diligent. But, Lord! what confuſion was I in, when I ſaw my miſtreſs come into the ſhop! I made an hundred pretences to ſtoop behind the counter, and rectified diſordered wares, and ſo buſy was I with my back towards her, that ſhe could ſcarce get a ſight of me. At length ſhe came up cloſe to me, and, turning me about, Indeed, ſaid ſhe, you take too much pains, you are too laborious, fair and ſoft, there is a great deal of time yet to-night, deſiſt a little, I muſt have a word with you. Then firſt preſuming to look in her face, how was I rejoiced when I received an alluring ſmile from her inſtead of a frown; this armed me with confidence enough to ſpeak to her.

MADAM,

MADAM, ſaid I, I do with ſhame confeſs myſelf guilty of a great error, but hope you will mitigate my crime, when you conſider it was the effect of youth, and hot blood, provoked by an almoſt irreſiſtable temptation. My miſtreſs admired to hear me talk in this ſtyle, but laying aſide her wonder, ſhe bad me tell her the whole truth, and what contract Tabitha, for that was the ſervant's name, and I had entered into. I was willing to excuſe my ſweetheart; and ſo equivocated in my anſwer, ſaying, That I only deſigned to ſurprize her unawares. This ſophiſtry of mine did not in the leaſt prevent my miſtreſs's prying wit from ſearching into the truth; ſhe told me ſhe knew all, though I endeavoured to conceal it, and deſired I would withdraw my affections from Tabitha, for ſhe intended very ſhortly to ſeparate us; but if I was ſo amorouſly inclined as not to be ſatisfied without a female, I might certainly make choice of

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one whoſe birth and fortune might give a better reliſh to my pleaſures than the fuſty embraces of a chamber-maid; having ſaid thus much, ſhe took her leave for the preſent.

FIVE-AND-FORTY years had not ſo totally deſtroyed her beauty, but that there ſtill remained the ruins of a very good face: her birth, though of great extraction, and which ſhe valued herſelf much upon, had little in it to recommend her to me; but the wealth of which ſhe had the diſpoſal, by my maſter's conſent, and ſome that was otherwiſe her own, whiſpered more than common felicity to me. Her laſt words made a deep impreſſion upon me, for they were not ſo enigmatically delivered, but I could eaſily interpret them to my own advantage: and I reſolved not to be hard-hearted, ſo left time to bring the buſineſs to a concluſion.

CHAP.

CHAP. IV.

What devices he found out to cheat his maſter, and what ways he had to ſpend his money laviſhly, in idle company, &c.

THE time being come when I was, the ſecond time, to meet with my new brethren, the fellowſhip apprentices, I went prepared with ſuch commodities as I could conveniently carry with me. Seeing me arrived well-fraught, the merchants preſently clapt me on board, reſolving not to let any of my goods lie long upon my hands. Our truck being made to our mutual contents, every man took his glaſs and pledged his fellow, which was the prelude to a very good ſupper, at which we had variety of diſhes, nor, to make the entertainment complete, did we want for companions of the female ſort, with whom we retired by turns into a con-

convenient bed-chamber; when ſupper was over, and every one quite ſated with theſe pleaſures, we returned to our reſpective habitations.

THIS trade we carried on, while our maſters dreamed not of our night-revellings: what we ſpent on ourſelves was not comparable to the extravagant expences our ladies put us upon, which were ſo great, that, though they made me rack my invention to ſupply their pretended neceſſities, yet all my endeavours could not anſwer their expectations. I had taken one of theſe gentlewomen a lodging, and, upon the bare promiſe of a whore, that ſhe would prove conſtant to me, allowed her a weekly penſion; notwithſtanding which, I never came to receive a particular favour; but I muſt make a return of ſome ſuch trifle, as a ſcarf, a ring, a piece of ſilk for a petticoat, or the like. If I failed at any time I was ſeverely checked,

perhaps

perhaps denied our accuſtomed familiarity, and my courtſhip derided, madam telling me, I was an empty fellow, that I beſtowed my favours on others, and that made me ſo ſparing to her. She would ſometimes tell me, that ſhe had refuſed ſeveral very conſiderable matches meerly for my ſake, but ſhe now found herſelf deluded by me, and would bear it no longer, but let my maſter know all my proceedings; this, it may be well ſuppoſed, extremely terrified me, and kept me in ſuch awe that I was obliged to do whatever ſhe would have me; but when I was provoked ſometimes ſo far as to ſet her at defiance, then would ſhe lower the tone of her voice, and coming to, by degrees, would call me ſmock faced little rogue, pat me upon the cheek, and cry, Come hither, ſirrah, I know what you want: and this coaxing ſoon overpowered me, and made me as fond as ever. To ſpeak the truth, this whore had beauty enough

to

to allure, and cunning enough to deceive any man.

When I firſt made myſelf acquainted with her, I thought my happineſs not inferior to the grand Signior's; for though he had the choice of ſeveral hundred women in his ſeraglio, yet I believed my Carabella (ſo was ſhe called) ſurpaſſed them all, and had every charm and perfection of the whole ſex. She was fair, well-featured, ſprightly and young, four dangerous endowments, when accompanied by wit, diſſimulation, craft and impudence, with a covetous deſire of enjoying what others poſſeſs. She could not but be well inſtructed in her trade, her mother having been an eminent bawd from the time ſhe brought her into the world, and almoſt in her cradle had devoted her to the ſervice of Venus. She was ſcarce thirteen years of age, but her beauty was greatly admired, and brought her ſeveral

humble ſervants; but her mother watched her ſo narrowly, that none of them, ſhe reſolved, ſhould taſte her fruit unleſs they bought the tree at a high price, and ſhe obſerved that her daughter's natural policy was ſuch, that, with a little inſtruction, ſhe would keep up the market, and ſoon command the purſes as well as the hearts of thoſe that paid their devoirs to her. Her deſign proved as fortunate as ſhe could have wiſhed; for among the many who languiſhed for her, they found one who was vaſtly rich, and entirely captivated with her charms.

This old gentleman was ſo infatuated by the witchcraft of her lovely face, that notwithſtanding he knew the profeſſion and practice of the mother, the daughter's ſeeming innocence made him reſolve upon propoſing marriage to her; we may eaſily ſuppoſe they were not long in giving their conſent to ſo advantageous an offer, but as

ſoon

ſoon as they had drawn the old man in to make a comfortable ſettlement, rings, jewels, and rich cloaths were provided, and the nuptials conſummated in due form. Carabella was now brought home to his houſe, and entertained in the moſt ſplendid manner, her huſband, for a ſhort time, thinking himſelf the happieſt of mortals, and but a ſhort time it was, for ſcarce was the honey-moon over but ſhe began to follow the dictates of her wanton and amorous diſpoſition, and under pretence of viſiting this friend, and that couſin, ſhe made frequent ſallies abroad with ſome of his former gallants, who were much younger than her huſband, and better qualified to ſatisfy her craving deſires.

HER ſpouſe could not but be very uneaſy at the freedoms ſhe took as well as at her profuſe expences, both which he was not only reſolved to abridge, but diveſted her of

the ornaments of her rings and jewels, which ſo exaſperated her that ſhe vowed revenge, and made it her whole ſtudy to torment him. There being a great diſproportion in their years, ſhe contemned him from the firſt, but now ſhe began to hate him heartily, contriving all manner of ways to ſatisfy herſelf, and plunder him; and ſhe could not want for good counſel as long as the old experienced bawd, her mother, was alive.

The old dotard being out of all patience, when ſhe returned one evening from one of her frolickſome jaunts, took her roundly to taſk, ſharply reproving her for her ingratitude to him, who had made a gentlewoman of her, and taken her from worſe than the dunghill, a common bawdy houſe, he ſaid he had ſufficient intelligence of the debauched manner in which ſhe ſpent her time when out of his ſight, her trips to the inns of court, aſking, who

ſhe

ſhe was at law with, and whether the two Iriſh bullies ſhe treated the other day at the Mulberry-garden were to be witneſſes for her? Running on in this manner 'till he was quite out of breath, he was forced to conclude his wormwood lecture by a ſudden fit of coughing: Madam, fearing he was ſtraining for more of that unpleaſant ſtuff with which he had already too much offended her ears, left him half-ſtrangled with his phthiſic.

At the ſame inſtant, a neighbour of their's came in to make them a viſit; ſhe was a gentlewoman of great virtue, and good manners, who, ſeeing him in that condition, ſaid to him, How is it, I pray, Sir; I am extremely concerned to ſee you ſo much diſordered. You lie, you lie, you whore, ſaid he, not diſtinguiſhing the gentlewoman's voice from his wife's, ſee me ſo much diſordered! I believe you would be glad to ſee me quite indeed, that

is, you wiſh me at the Devil, you ſtrumpet, you cheat, you infernal hag, no name is bad enough for you! And then coughed again ſo violently, that it was in vain to ſpeak to him; but when the fit was a little abated, ſhe reſolved to ſay ſomething, though her amazement to hear what ſhe neither deſerved or expected would hardly give her leave. At laſt ſhe plucked up a ſpirit, and aſked him, why he ſhould uſe ſuch opprobrious language to her, and attempt to ſtain her honour, which was hitherto ſpotleſs and undefiled? She ſaid, her behaviour had ever been ſo far from what he would repreſent it, that ſhe had been looked upon as an example for the beſt of her neighbours to follow and imitate. Let me alone, huſſey, replied the old man, to made an example of you, and you ſhall have followers enough when you and the old bawd, your mother, are carted. Why, who am I, ſaid the gentlewoman, that you dare talk thus to me?

Who

Who are you? anſwered he, you are touchwood, tinder, gunpowder, wildfire, and what is worſe than all, my wife.

By this the gentlewoman really concluded he was mad, and leſt he might do her ſome miſchief in his frenzy, was preparing to ſlip out of the room, juſt as his cough left him, and he recovered his ſight, by which he perceived his miſtake, and made all the apologies that his confuſion and the wrath he was in would permit him. His Rib all this time was laughing behind the hangings; but, when the viſitant was gone, and ſhe heard her huſband coming to ſeek for her, ſhe ſlipt into the bed-chamber, and placed herſelf upon her knees in a praying poſture, and begged of Heaven to ſoften her huſband's heart, and undeceive him, that he might know her falſe accuſers, and be ſatisfied of her innocence.

THE cuckold liſtening awhile, and ſurprized to ſee her at prayers, which was indeed the firſt time ſhe had ever thought of any ſuch thing, he was ſo overjoyed, that, not minding what diſturbance he gave to her pretended devotion, he ruſhed towards her, and claſping her in his arms, And art thou then innocent, my duck, ſaid he, art thou this religious ſaint, O! how haſt thou been abuſed! I will never more believe what any one ſhall ſay againſt thee. In ſhort, he gave her to underſtand, that he had employed perſons to obſerve her conduct; who, to anſwer their own bye-ends, he believed, nay, he was aſſured, he ſaid, had abuſed both her and him; that for the time to come he would not admit a jealous thought of her to enter his breaſt, and to confirm what he had ſaid, he inſtantly gave her his keys, and truſted every thing he had that was valuable to her care and management.

THE

The cunning quean would not accept of this kind offer, without much preſſing, but at length ſealing his pardon with a kiſs, an eternal reconciliation ſeemed to be made between them. For ſome time ſhe behaved mighty well; but having given her mother a catalogue of all the rich effects in her poſſeſſion, they contrived ways to convey every thing of value out of the houſe; then, leaving the deceived cuckold faſt aſleep in his bed, at five o'clock in the morning ſhe went to a new lodging her mother had provided for her at a diſtant part of the town, where, changing her name, and never going out but in a maſk, and ſuch cloaths as ſhe had never been ſeen in, whilſt ſhe lived with him, ſhe paſſed undiſcovered.

It was at this time my unhappineſs to become acquainted with her, by her coming accidentally to buy ſome wares at our ſhop, and I being ordered to carry them home

home to her lodgings. When I waited upon her, ſhe gave me many broad hints of my paying myſelf in another way than I expected; but, as my maſter would not be put off without the ready money, I could by no means come into her meaſures at that time; but the invitations ſhe gave me by her languiſhing looks, her taking an opportunity to let me ſee the fineſt neck and breaſt in the world, which added to a beautiful face, an eaſy carriage, and an agreeable humour, were ſuch temptations as fleſh and blood could not long reſiſt: ſo the firſt opportunity I had, by my maſter's going out of town, I went to pay my humble reſpects to her, and was well received; ſoon ſtruck up a bargain, and ſwore eternal conſtancy, the uſual oath of young lovers to each other.

THIS whore's extravagance was ſo great, that all I could procure from the ſociety of apprentices, though I found means to turn

turn the beſt part of it into ready money, was not ſufficient to content her, ſo that I was reſolved to rob the till, and ſhare a little of my maſter's money before he had counted it. Several projects I made trial of, but nothing anſwered my purpoſe ſo well as a pair of barber's curling irons, which, by the help of a file, I made ſlip very eaſy into the chink, and turn round; the firſt eſſay I made gave me great ſatisfaction, for laying my irons down upon an edge, then turning and opening them wide, I could pinch up two or three ſhillings at a time, which I continued doing till I had got between twenty and thirty, and ſometimes I would take more, as I thought my occaſions required.

HAVING now two ſtrings to my bow, the aſſiſtance of the ſociety, and produce of my maſter's money-box, I thought I lived happier than any body; I wanted for nothing; enjoyed my miſtreſs, my bottle, and

and my friendas of ten as I pleaſed; that is, without neglecting my buſineſs at home; when I was with my Carabella, nobody was more gallant; I had ſonnets, and amorous poems at my fingers ends; when, among my drinking companions, nobody more jovial; I had fifty catches in praiſe of Bacchus, and to promote drinking, and to ſhew my wit, and gain the applauſe of the topers, I drew the following character of a bottle;

"He is a gentleman, I aſſure you, who once lived, like a Salamander, in the flames, and had he not been burnt he would never have been found. He is never better than when his breath is ſtopped; bury him and you make him quicker: as for his habit, it is ever plain, yet neat; and, though he is nobly born, he ſcorns not to wear a green coat without a badge upon it: the greateſt injury you can do him is to pick a hole in his coat. Though

he

he wears for the moſt part one ſort of garb, yet is never out of the faſhion, always acceptable to the beſt company, who regard him not for his outward dreſs but his inward worth: however, his ſuit is made of admirable ſtuff, for the outſide never grows barer than it was at firſt, and the lining is the freſher for wearing. So great a value does he ſet upon his dreſs, that he would chuſe rather to have his brains knocked out than to have a rent in his garment. He wears an alamode hat almoſt as little, and full as light as a ſhuttle-cock, which he puts off to none; but, like a Quaker, when brought before a magiſtrate, it is taken off for him.

As to his pedigree, it is not eaſily ſettled, for he has in him the pureſt blood of France, is allied to the Portugueze, and Spaniards, whom chiefly he imitates, being upright and ſtately; treads for the moſt part on carpets, and never ſtirs a-

broad, but when carried, yet full of activity. If he runs faſt, and long, the more wind he gets. If he chance to fall, which is ſeldom, for many look to him, he will be extremely moved, and, contrary to all men, the fuller his belly is, the leſs hurt he receives. His conditions are a riddle, there is in him pure virtue, and notorious vice; the quinteſſence of love, and the venom of hatred. He is the beginner and ender of a thouſand quarrels in a year; yet is he a mere coward, for he will ſuffer any man to take him by the noſe, and hardly ever broke any one's pate but when company was by. He is engaging in ſociety, and will ſpend himſelf to the laſt drop, if raiſed by a lady's ſoft hand. He whets wit, yet dulls it; creates new fancies, but often ſtupifies; gives the orator a fluent tongue, and makes him ſpeechleſs. As he helpeth miniſters to preach, ſo he likewiſe ſilenceth more than the Spaniſh inquiſition. He can

per-

perform wonders, making a faulkner fly high within doors, and a huntſman catch a fox by the fire-ſide. As to his tenets, whatever he holds he commonly makes good. All tongues court him, but he is too profound for ſhallow brains to meddle with. He is beloved and reliſhed in all companies; is inwardly acquainted with my Lord Mayor and the Aldermen, and often incorporates with their wives. His kiſſes are ſo ſweet that the ladies often lick their lips after them, and though his breath be ſtrong, yet it is not offenſive. His manners are none of the beſt, for he lies every night in a tavern, and frequently picks men's pockets, and yet thoſe that are ſo uſed by him are the fondeſt of him. As to his eſtate, all I can ſay is, that he carries his all about him, yet he is generally accounted rich. What he hath, he holds upon courteſy; but what he gives to others is held in capite. What he poſ-

ſeſſeth is commonly upon ſale, and if you purchaſe him you purchaſe all."

THIS was not the firſt ſpecimen I had given my companions of my talents in writing, for ſome other things I had wrote in proſe; and, as I ſaid before, many madrigals and catches in rhime. I could never endure idleneſs, but was at all times either writing, contriving, or putting my contrivances in execution, for I thought it better *male agere quam nihil agere*, my brains and hands were continually working, and generally ſo much to the purpoſe, that I was eſteemed an honeſt and induſtrious man at home, and one of the greateſt thieves and merrieſt fellows alive by my companions abroad. But in the height of all this proſperity I was a little ſoured by our Tabitha's whiſpering one day in my ear that ſhe found herſelf with child; this was terrible news, but knowing that vexing does but increaſe, and not re-

remedy any trouble, I reſolved to bear it patiently, and ſtudy for ſome means to ſave both our credits. To this end, I framed a letter as from her father in the country, deſiring her to come down with all ſpeed, if ſhe was willing to ſee him alive. This letter, as we had laid the plot between us, ſhe ſhewed to her miſtreſs, begging leave to pay her duty to her dying father. Our miſtreſs willingly conſented thereto, and was glad of this opportunity to part us, for ſhe knew I had a more than ordinary love for her, which ſhe did not at all approve of. Tabitha had ſtayed as long as poſſible ſhe could, without a diſcovery, keeping down her belly with three buſks at a time, but now ſhe made haſte to rub off. I had provided a midwife for her, at whoſe houſe ſhe was ſafely delivered; but when the farther expence came on of maintaining both woman and child, I began to make ſevere reflections on the inconvenience that this

momentary ſlippery pleaſure draws a man into, how eager he is upon the firſt onſet, and how ſoon ſatisfied; how oftentimes what was the object of all his joys, turns, in a very ſhort ſpace, to loathing and deteſtation. Well, I came at laſt to a reſolution of getting rid of this Bar to my other pleaſures, and to diſpoſe of the cow and calf together, I told her that I would make up as good a ſum of money as I could, and then marry her, upon this condition that ſhe ſhould promiſe to travel with me wherever I went, which I knew was her only deſire, ſo I informed her of my intention to go to Virginia, and the reaſons that induced me to it.

Firſt, THAT her diſgrace would not be known there; *Secondly*, That I ſhould be out of the power of my maſter; and, *Thirdly*, That we might ſoon grow rich, there being great opportunities of making a man's fortune in that country. Beſides I talked

I talked much of the pleaſantneſs of the country, and the great plenty that was there to be met with. Kind Tibatha aſſented to all I propoſed, and told me ſhe was willing to do whatever I required of her. So much complaiſance and obedience in a wife made me almoſt renounce the villainous deſign I had undertaken; but on the other hand, when I conſidered what a check ſhe would be to my pleaſures, I puſhed on with it. So carried her down to Graveſend, where I had agreed with the maſter of a ſhip, going to Virginia, to take her and her baſtard off my hands; a little before the ſhip was to ſail, I pretended I had left ſomething aſhore that I muſt look after, and would return immediately, upon which I called to a boat paſſing by, that had company in it, to know if they would ſet me aſhore, which they readily conſented to; but when I came on board them I found they were going to London, ſo I told them I would

would even go thither too, without making any ſtop by the way; as ſoon as I was out of the ſhip I knew ſhe was to weigh anchor and ſail. Thus was I delivered from a trouble and expence that had made me very uneaſy; but there was ſo much cruelty in the manner of it, that I muſt own I had tears in my eyes when I came into the wherry that was to carry me to London, and ſat there in a very dejected condition; which a good woman obſerving, young man, ſaid ſhe, You look very melancholy, it is probable you have taken leave of ſome dearly beloved friend in that ſhip, by your looking ſo much after it. I told her ſhe had gueſſed right; and I, ſaid ſhe again, have taken leave of my huſband, who is juſt ſailed in another ſhip before, therefore I have as much cauſe to grieve as you: but come, be of good comfort, man, friends muſt ſometimes part, and it is better here than at the gallows; go a-

long

long with me, and we will waſh down ſorrow in a glaſs of generous wine.

Upon this, looking more curiouſly in her face, I found it was every way correſponding with her jolly temper, ſhe had a ſanguine complexion, with a black rolling eye, piercing and lively, and was, in ſhort, what none but a very ſqueamiſh fellow could find fault with; ſo I even ſtruck up a bargain with her, and when we came to Billinſgate, we went together to the Gun-tavern, and there waſhed down ſorrow, as ſhe had before adviſed, in a glaſs of good wine, adding thereto a bit of ſomething to eat; and here we agreed ſo well, that ſhe conſented to let me have part of her bed that night, which was to be at an inn, for ſhe was to go the next morning to her mother's at Barnet: I will not deſcribe the raptures of that night, but let the reader imagine every thing that can ſatisfy the warmeſt wiſhes

of

of two fond lovers, and thoſe are what we enjoy in each others arms. The morning being come we breakfaſted together, and then ſhe told me ſhe would not go to her mother, but continue with me as long as ſhe had a penny left, and ſhe had then about thirty pieces of gold about her. Well, ſaid I, my dear, ſince that is your reſolution, a match, and let me be your Steward; to which ſhe very readily agreed, and put her gold into my hands: for two or three hours I ſhewed myſelf very officious in my place, but then conſidering, that when this money was ſpent, we ſhould not know what to do with ourſelves, I thought it was better for one to want than two; beſides I had lately ſurfeited on a medlar, and now my ſtomach began to nauſeate it. I pretended an excuſe to go down and provide ſomething for dinner; and then took juſt time enough to write the two following lines, and ſent them

them to her by the Chamberlain, inſtead of taking a formal leave:

Madam, I'm gone, no wonder, for you know
Lovers encounters are but touch and go.

AFTER this, I poſted away to my friend Ralph at the tavern; I knew not at firſt what courſe I ſhould follow; but having raiſed my ſpirits with a glaſs of wine, I concluded to hazard my maſter's good opinion, nay, and my miſtreſs's affection too, which, though at preſent, it only ſmoaked, I might eaſily divine would have ſoon burſt into a flame. Being before confined to my maſter's time, I began to conſider what a precious thing liberty was, and ſo reſolved to have the full enjoyment of it, having an eſtate I thought in my pocket; but as man is a ſocial creature, I thought I ſhould not be near ſo happy by myſelf as with a companion, wherefore I ſent to an apprentice, my intimate

timate acquaintance, who had been often tempting me to ramble with him. This lad was his maſter's caſhier, which I knew would greatly aſſiſt my deſign. As ſoon as he appeared, I made him acquainted with my intention of ſeeing the world; though this had been his own propoſal not long before, yet he now ſeemed a little ſtartled at it; but I ſoon ſatisfied all his ſcruples, by obſerving to him, what an intolerable thing it was to have our wills enſlaved to other men's, ſince, as well as they, we were created free denizons of the world; that ſince our great grandfather, Adam, was Emperor of the whole world, we might at leaſt ſtile ourſelves Princes, and therefore debaſed our birth by a voluntary ſubmiſſion to ſervitude and ſlavery.

I HAD no great occaſion to enlarge much on this topic, his own inclination ſufficiently prompting him to come into my

my way of thinking. So, after a little diſcourſe, we came to a firm reſolution of becoming Knights-errant. I adviſed him to go home forthwith, and bring what caſh he had in his cuſtody, which he readily undertook, and indeed brought more than I could have expected, the whole ſum was above two hundred pounds; ſo happy were we in this our firſt proceeding together.

THUS full fraught with money we went on our adventures, promiſing ourſelves all imaginary delights, without conſidering of their conſequences. We frequented all the places where we ſuppoſed pleaſure was to be purchaſed, the chief of theſe were common brothels, in which we reveled all night, and lay concealed all day, fearing to venture abroad in the light, unleſs we hired a coach, which we often did, and took a country jaunt, and then when we had eat a good dinner, and

drank plentifully, would find ſome back-way out of the houſe, and bilk both my landlord and the coachman, who perhaps was forced to pay part of the reckoning, at leaſt ſo much as he had had for himſelf. We would ſometimes bilk hackney-coach-men in the ſtreets of London, by jumping out of the coach in the evening when it was dark; but I had like once to have paid dear for an undertaking of this kind; for in getting out of the coach, ſome how or other, my coat was entangled in one of the wheels, which, by turning about, had made it ſo faſt, that I verily believed my crimes would now be all puniſhed by my being executed on the wheel, which I could not have avoided had I not ſpeedily unbuttoned my coat, and thrown it off. I was unwilling to be diſcovered by the coachman, by crying out to him to ſtop, thinking I might recover my coat by de-grees, ſo I ran a long way by the ſide of the coach, like a running-footman, but

all

all my endeavours proving ineffectual, I was forced at last to cry, Hold Coachman, whereupon he came off his box, and, finding how I had intended to have bilked him, would not untangle my coat 'till I had paid him his hire, after which he gave it into my hands; but, upon his delivering it, he told me, I had paid him, but he had not paid me for my attendance on him, adding moreover, that my waistcoat would not look like a livery unless it were well laced; and with that lashed me very smartly with his whip, which, as I was only in a thin waistcoat, made me cut capers like any French dancing-master.

ANOTHER pastime that my friend and I took much delight in, was to kick old watchmen's lanthorns about the streets, and sometimes score them a little over the Noddles for sleeping on their stands. This foolery we practiced so often, that we

were met with at laſt, and ſeverely puniſhed for our frolicks.

It happened, that in Pater-noſter-row, we found a fellow at noddy on a ſtall, with his lanthorn and candle by him; we firſt ſeized on thoſe, and kicking them into the kennel, proſecuted our abuſe on the poor fellow, by giving him two or three good knocks to awaken him; but here we caught a tartar, for thinking him an old decrepit wretch, and one that had little uſe of his eyes without the help of thoſe in his pocket, we made not that haſte we ought to have done, and were overtaken and laid hold of by him, who proved a ſturdy young fellow, able to grapple with us both, and kept us faſt till more help came, to carry us before his worſhip the Conſtable, by whom we were committed to the Compter for rats.

HERE we were in a peck of troubles, for fear our maſters ſhould come to hear where we were: but however we reſolved, for the preſent, to drown all care: in a very ſhort time we found more rats, both male and female, brought in to keep us company: ſome of the men were all bloody; the ladies with their hoods, ſcarfs, and head-cloths all torn, and none of them ſober. Damning and curſing were the conſtant flowers of their rhetoric; calling for beer and brandy, the chief argument they maintained, and roaring and bellowing in diſtracted notes all the harmony they made. Though I was wicked enough myſelf, yet I bleſſed God that I had not arrived at the height of brutality, to which moſt of theſe wretches were got. Whilſt in this company I thought myſelf on the confines of hell. Sin, when diſguiſed under ſome cloak of decency, appears not ſo ſhocking, but when in its own ſhape, it is enough to

ſtrike horror into any one who is not quite ſtupified. I was ſo far from deſiring to aſſociate with theſe hell-hounds, that I knew not which I loathed moſt, their company, or the priſon, which is, I believe, an epitome of hell itſelf: it is the land of darkneſs, inhabited by calamity, horror, miſery, and deſpair, a bottomleſs pit of fraud and confuſion, violence and ſtench. It is the centre of infamy, the deſtruction of good manners, the fining-pot of friendſhip, and a foreſt of ravenous beaſts. Here you may ſee one weeping, another ſinging, one ſleeping, another ſwearing, every one variouſly employed, one eating in a corner, another piſſing juſt by him, and perhaps another louſing him between them.

It is, in ſhort, a tomb to bury men alive in, a wood of woe, a map of miſery. It has more diſeaſes than a peſt houſe, and more ſtinks than my Lord-Mayor's dog-kennel.

kennel. It is a little common-wealth, though little wealth is common in it. It is as intricate as Roſamond's bower, and as full of meanders and windings, which there is no getting out of, but by the help of a ſilver clue: as we had the good luck not to be deſtitute of this, upon paying our fees the next morning, and receiving ſome good admonitions from the juſtice, we were diſcharged.

THIS misfortune, and the terrible examples before us, made us not one jot the more cautious; but as ſoon as we were at liberty, we went upon the ſcent for freſh game, and at length fell into the houſe of mother Croſs, formerly famous for the citizens wives who frequented it; and is ſtill, without doubt, one of the genteeleſt of the kind, except thoſe that are kept by people of quality; the truth of it is, of all the bawds I know, and that is no ſmall number, ſhe merits the moſt, taking

ing great care of the ware ſhe puts into any gentleman's hands, both as to its ſoundneſs and make.

As ſoon as we entered the door, we heard the ruſſling of ſilks in ſundry places, the ladies, at the ſight of a man, ſkipping like ſo many conies into their burrows, which piece of ſeeming modeſty, I ſuppoſe is practiſed to ſet the keener edge upon gentlemen's appetites, for really upon farther trial theſe modeſt women are not over ſqueamiſhly nice. But to proceed, we were conducted into a large well-furniſhed room, where wine was brought to us, and ſomething reliſhing to eat, without our ſpeaking for it, which, it ſeems, is the cuſtom of the houſe, no freedoms being allowed 'till a good reckoning is begun; indeed when they brought up a neat's tongue, the waiter aſked if we liked that, or a couple of lobſters beſt, we choſe the latter, and ſoon after the old matron came

came in herſelf, and ſeating herſelf by me, began immediately to be very impudently acquainted, and chucking me under the chin, called me her ſmock-faced ſon; then, taking a glaſs in her hand, drank the beggar's bleſſing to us both. Well, children, ſaid ſhe, I know what ye want, and ye ſhall be ſatisfied; nature will have its courſe, and if, in youth, it be ſtopped, it will but grow the more headſtrong. I ſee by your countenances ye are the ſons of mirth and pleaſure, and both qualified to come off with honour in an amorous rencountre; I will ſend thoſe to ye that ſhall try what metal ye are made of. The old gentlewoman now took her leave, and preſently came two young creatures into the room, one ſeating herſelf by me, and the other by my friend. At the firſt view of my doxy, I was moſt prodigiouſly well pleaſed, for ſhe was handſome and well-ſhaped; but, in a very ſhort time, diſcover-

vered ſo much impudence, that it was to me a perfect antidote to letchery.

Iſta femina quæ limites vericundiæ, &c.

That woman, who once paſſes the bounds of modeſty, ſeldom ſtops till ſhe arrives at the height of impudence.

I MUST needs deal ſo ingenuouſly as to own, that, at firſt, the needle of my microcoſm was touched with love's loadſtone; but, upon a little farther acquaintance, my circumſtances were ſo languid, that if I might have had an hundred pounds, I could have made no puſh to have entered into her favour; not but that ſhe threw out all that ſhe thought might be allurements: but I looked upon her as a gueſt fitter for an hoſpital than a banquet of love, and as one who ſtood more in need of the ſurgeon's acquaintance than mine. She had ſet up upon credit, and contrary to thoſe in all other trades, was undone by having too many cuſtomers.

My

My friend, I found, was better pleaſed with her than I was, ſo we made an exchange, and I retired with the doxy into another private room; but here I found madam begin to put on airs of coyneſs and reſerve; ſhe told me ſhe never granted any favours but to perſons of diſtinction, who had patience enough to gain a familiarity with her by a long acquaintance, and to win her good opinion by ſincere affection, and promiſes of a conſtant friendſhip; upon this I pulled out a crown piece, and told her, that nothing could be a greater proof of the ſincerity of a man's affection than his parting with his money; but this ſhe rejected with ſcorn, ſaying, whatever I might think of her, ſhe was not reduced to ſo low a condition, nor was ſhe ſo mean and mercenary a proſtitute as to ſell herſelf at that beggarly price. I muſt own I was ſtrongly charmed with her perſon, and therefore taking out another crown, told her, That though

that

that was not a ſufficient purchaſe for ſo much beauty, it was all I was able to beſtow at that time. She now began to ſoften a little, and ſo, after ſome faint ſtruggling, ſuffered me to accompliſh my deſires; but I had no ſooner made an end of the affair in hand, but up comes a fellow, whoſe face would have lighted the room, had there been no candle in it, for it appeared like a blazing ſtar, and his noſe (for he had miraculouſly preſerved it) was the buſhy tail to it. This bravo, laying his hand on his ſword, looked fiercer than a Spaniſh Don, inſulting over his Indian ſlave. Sirrah, ſaid he, thou moſt audacious villain, blood and thunder! How dareſt thou, with that ſmooth face of thine, ſeduce this lady's virtue, and diſhonour me in deluding my wife? Deſt thou not expect an annihilation, or at leaſt a diſſipation, of that lady like frame of thine into the minuteſt atoms? Shall I bear this affront from a beardleſs boy?

Miſcreant,

Miſcreant, defend thy life. With that, going to make a ſeeming paſs at me, I caught up a chair, and received his point in the ſeat, then following him home, I tumbled him down ſtairs; but, not being able to recover myſelf, fell with him. My comrade, at the noiſe, came running out to my aſſiſtance; but, ſeeing me rather uſe my heels than my hands, he followed my example, and ſo we built a ſconce, leaving the old bawd and the bully to condole with each other for their ill-concerted plot, for our reckoning was pretty conſiderable.

THIS fellow was one of thoſe who is commonly called a Derby-captain, whoſe character may not be unentertaining to the reader.

"A DERBY-CAPTAIN is ſo named from his frequenting the Derby alehouſes, where he diverts company with the

ſtrange and lying accounts of his amours and his battles. A bawdy-houſe is his cloyſter, where he conſtantly ſays his Mattins; he is the whores protector, boaſting himſelf more valiant than Hector, thereby thinking to taking off the ſuſpicion of cowardice, for the reputation of bravery is a good defence to thoſe who dare not uſe it. He often draws his ſword upon ſlight occaſions, and never but when he is well aſſured no danger will enſue. In company he is very captious, and his wrath never ſwells higher than againſt thoſe, whom he finds the leaſt willing to give him an occaſion to exert it. The only way to pacify him is to kick him; the hotter you grow the milder is he. The more you abuſe him the more he reſpects you. Every man is his maſter that dares beat him; and all dare that know him. His eſtate lies in contrivance; no man has a more working brain, for his every meal is got by a ſtratagem. He

hath an excellent memory for his acquaintance; if there ever paſſed but an How do you do? between him and another, whom he thinks he can get any thing by, it ſhall ſerve for an embrace ſeven years after; and if you do not immediately know him, he cries, You have forgot your old acquaintance. Out of the abundance of his joy to ſee you, he muſt needs give you a glaſs of wine, and if you offer to pay for it, whilſt you are drawing out your money, he fumbles in his pockets like a ſchool-boy with the buttons of his breeches, when he is ordered to let them down to be whipped; but, when the reckoning is paid, he ſwears you are too quick for him, and force him to incivility.

"If he can get no ſupplies from the bawdy-houſe, he borrows of all he can meet; of this a ſhilling, of that another, which ſome lend him, not ſo much with

the hopes of being repayed, as that he will never trouble them again. If any man does him a favour he uſes him as he does his coat, never forſakes him till he has worn him thread-bare: his morning prayer is, that his cheats may take effect that day, or, if not, that he may have wherewithal to be drunk before night; he ſleeps with a pipe in his mouth, and dreams of nothing but a dungeon. He dares not enter into a ſerious thought with himſelf, leſt he ſhould hang himſelf, but, if melancholy ſeizes him, beer is his refuge, and drunkenneſs cures him. Laſtly, If he eſcapes the gallows, he dies of the pox; and ſo ends the noble Captain."

My comrade and I were exceedingly rejoiced at the deliverance we had had from mother Croſs's, yet could not take warning thereby, but reſolved to ſeek more adventure, and make another viſit to ſome of the kind ſex; ſo, rambling

down

down Fetter-lane, the Devil's finger pointed out to us the ſign of a lady's hand with a coffee-pot, in a little alley, which we knew was the ſure mark of a houſe for our purpoſe; but, when we entered, how we were amazed at the ſight of mother Frowzey in a chair by the fire, with a pipe in her mouth, and a quartern of aqua-vitæ by her ſide! This tun of fleſh reſembled an elephant in the bulk of her waiſt, and her noſe ſeemed almoſt long enough for its trunk; her teeth, indeed, were fallen out, and as loving neighbours to reconcile them, her noſe and chin were reſolved to meet about it. When ſhe opened her mouth to bid us welcome, her breath was like the ſteam of a furnace, ſending forth the ſtrong effluvia of brimſtone, tobacco, and ſtrong waters. Her houſe was dirty, her chairs and tables were all ricketty, and her maid Piety, who was called down to ſee what we wanted, had no noſe, and, I believe, no ſmock:

this we thought not a fit place of entertainment for two gentlemen, who had above two hundred pounds in their pockets, and therefore we marched off to find out a place more agreeable to our taſte: but in the way I would fain have had my friend let me into a partnerſhip in his caſh; which, he refuſing, made me reſolve with myſelf to find ſome way, if poſſible, to nick him of the whole.

It happened, that coming into Lincoln's inn-fields, we overtook a lady extremely well dreſſed; and I found, upon a cloſe examination of her, ſhe had ſomething in her face that was not only very handſome, but that promiſed no great oppoſition to an engagement of love; upon which I reſolved boldly to attack her, my comrade would have diſſuaded me from it, ſaying, To be ſure ſhe will be affronted, for ſhe had all the appearance of a woman of faſhion; but, I remembering

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the old proverb, "Faint heart never won "fair lady," told him he was a fool, that women of faſhion, and of quality too, were as ſuſceptible of love as thoſe of lower rank; ſo, addreſſing myſelf to the lady in a very frank manner, I told her, It was a pity that ſo agreeable a lady ſhould have nobody to attend her; and that if ſhe would give me leave to ſee her ſafe home, I ſhould take it as an honour: the lady, ſo far from being affronted, as my friend imagined ſhe would have been, anſwered, with a great deal of complaiſance, that I was very obliging, and the honour would be done to her. We went no farther than Great Queen-ſtreet before ſhe ſtopped at a very handſome houſe, and ſaid, ſhe was now at home, and that if I and my friend would walk in, we ſhould be very welcome; I made her anſwer, That if any man could refuſe ſo charming an invitation, he ought never to be bleſt with ſuch another: ſo in we went,

and

and were conducted into a ſpacious apartment, moſt elegantly furniſhed; after which a ſervant brought wine, and there being a harpſichord in the room, which I took notice of, the lady very obligingly ſat down, and played, accompanying the inſtrument with her voice, the moſt raviſhing I had ever heard. How would all theſe accompliſhments have adorned a woman of virtue! and what pity it is that they were beſtowed on one of the moſt infamous proſtitutes that ever was born! and ſuch ſhe will appear in the ſequel of the ſtory.

We made a great many compliments upon her fine voice, and all the other charms of her perſon and company; and ſhe, not to be behind with us, made us believe ſhe was mighty well pleaſed with us, and would needs have us ſtay ſupper with her, which we very readily agreed to: the lady drank freely, and made us

do

do the ſame; and, between whiles, gave me to underſtand there was no favour ſhe was not ready to grant me. The muſick, the charms of the lady, but more eſpecially the wine, had ſo intoxicated my friend, that he was quite drunk and aſleep. It now came into my head, that this was the beſt opportunity I ſhould meet with to execute my deſign upon him. So I determined to rob him, and, that I might alſo ſecure him from following me, to ſend him home to his maſter. I found the lady had but a contemptible opinion of him, and ſeemed to wiſh him out of the way, that we might enjoy ourſelves the more freely; therefore I brought her in to aſſiſt my project, as if it was a thing only done in jeſt; I ſaid he had near two hundred pounds about him, that I would take it from him while he was thus aſleep, and ſend him home, then ſuffer him to be ſufficiently frightened for the loſs of his money before I reſtored it, and that would

teach

teach him more wit than to carry ſuch a charge about him when he had no occaſion for it. Madam ſeemed to be mightily pleaſed with the joke, but, like a damned ſtrumpet as ſhe was, deſigned to make no joke of it. She was very officious in getting a porter as I deſired; then lent me a card, which, after I had rifled his pockets, I ſewed, with a ſuperſcription, on his back, directing him to his maſter in ſuch a place, and wrote the following letter, to be delivered at the ſame time:

SIR, *I lately found your gooſe upon the way,*
And pick'd him up as one that went aſtray.
To recompence my pains I pull'd his feathers,
Such precious down will warm me in all weathers.

I GAVE the porter inſtructions, that he ſhould but juſt put him within the doors, and leave the letter, and then come away with all ſpeed to prevent any examination; which

which he did accordingly, and came back ſooner than I could expect. By this time I had gained my miſtreſs with a golden ſhower; and ſhe proteſted, that, from the moment I firſt accoſted her in Lincoln's-inn fields, ſhe had felt ſuch a tendre for me, that nothing but having the full poſſeſſion of me could ſatisfy; that ſhe would wholly devote herſelf to me, and would deſpiſe all mankind for my ſake; and hoped, that, in return, I would promiſe to be conſtant to her; this I was not at all backward in, it being what I was uſed to, having ſworn conſtancy to at leaſt fifty before. I then took her in my arms, and would have had her gone immediately to bed; but, ſhe told me, there would be time enough before morning to ſport in, and that we ſhould be both tired if we went to bed ſo ſoon. She often went out of the room, and ſtayed a pretty while, which, I imagined, was to prepare the bed with a more than common delicacy;

but

but ſhe had other thoughts in her head, ſuggeſted, I ſuppoſe, by the ſight of the ſaid two hundred pounds. At length having ſung two or three more ſongs, and played ſome leſſons on her harpſichord, we retired to her bed-chamber, and of all the muſick ſhe had made, delightful as it was, I thought none ſo charming as that of the tag of her ſtays while ſhe was unlacing, if I was ſo much tranſported with the preparation, it is not eaſy to imagine how great were my raptures when I came to the entertainment itſelf: But O! how ſhort was the enjoyment! We had not been above half an hour in bed before a noiſe was made at the windows, with which madam pretended to be greatly frightened, and lay for ſome time trembling in a moſt extraordinary manner, and ſaid, ſhe was afraid there were thieves breaking into the houſe; when inſtantly the caſement of one of the windows being burſt open, three ruffians

came

came rushing into the chamber one after another; upon which my charmer, slipping on her gown, got out of bed, and begged they would not murder her; they said, they had no such intention, but would prevent her making a noise, so laid fast hold of her, and gagged and bound her. Then, having plundered the room, "damme, said one of them, here is a good feather-bed, we will hand that out of the window;" upon which, coming hastily to the bed-side, they rolled it up, and poor Pilgarlic in the middle of it; pulling that and myself very rudely upon the ground, which made me put my head out at the end, and roar like Phalaris in his bull. The rogues pretending to be frightened at the unexpected noise scampered to the window, and escaped by a rope ladder they had fixed there for their purpose. Perceiving they were gone, I crept from my hole, and getting to my fair Devil, took the gag out of her mouth, loosed her hands, and

ſhe herſelf untied her feet. I then began to look for my cloaths, but they were not to be found, at which ſhe ſeemed to be much concerned; but, when I told her what a ſum of money I had loſt, her grief, as ſhe pretended, was redoubled. For this was all a pretence, ſhe herſelf having laid the whole ſcheme of the robbery, as ſhe afterwards confeſſed to me in Newgate, where I, ſome time after, went to pay her a viſit, when under condemnation, only for poiſoning one of her huſbands, who, as ſhe then informed me, was one of the very rogues that robbed me; and their quarrels began about his refuſing her a ſhare of the booty. In this condition what was to be done, ſhe had no men's cloaths in her houſe, but ſaid, I muſt even be contented to be dreſſed in woman's apparel, and that ſhe could furniſh me with, accordingly ſhe put me on a very handſome ſuit of her own cloaths with all things ſuitable; the ſlenderneſs

of

of my body, and ſmoothneſs of my ſkin, made me almoſt believe, when I came to conſult the glaſs, that there was a real tranſmutation of ſex; but when I walked I found ſomething pendulous, that convinced me I was, in that point, *Statu quo*. The time being come when I was to take my leave, I made a foul miſtake in offering to ſalute my miſtreſs, for I was endeavouring to pull off my hood inſtead of my hat, and made a reverend bow for a courteſy: the kind lady taught me how to rectify my error for the future, and then we bade each other adieu. Here I was entered upon a new ſcene of action; I traverſed the ſtreets, conſidering with myſelf what I had beſt do, but my invention, that was at all times pretty ready, put the following ſcheme in my head: I knocked at a door where I ſaw a bill, and aſked what lodgings they had to lett; I was civily intreated to walk in, and ſhewn ſeveral rooms with much reſpect, for my female habit

was very gallant, and ſo it had need, for it coſt me as much as a cloth of gold; at length I pitched upon two rooms genteelly furniſhed, and made no ſcruple about the rent, becauſe I knew I ſhould never pay any. I told my landlady that I was juſt come out of the country, and my trunks and other things were to follow with my ſervants; I at firſt reſolved to take the appartment for no longer time than I thought I could want in providing men's cloaths, and making my eſcape; but finding my preſent garb diſguiſed me well, and that there was no danger of a diſcovery, I determined to play ſome pranks as a fine lady. There was a young gentleman, who lodged in the ſame houſe, that took eſpecial notice of me as ſoon as I entered it, and who, as he told me the next day, was overjoyed that I had reſolved to be a lodger there. This young gallant, who had more money than wit, prepared a banquet for me, and requeſted

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the favour that I would permit that, and himſelf, to be received into my appartment; I alledged, that I could not, in point of honour, allow of any ſuch thing, and deſired to be excuſed; but he preſſed me ſo hard, getting the landlady alſo to intercede for him, that at laſt, with much ſeeming reluctance, I condeſcended to accept of his offer. Very merry they were; but I thought it would be moſt prudent for me to be upon the reſerve. My he-lover ſo gazed upon me, that I thought he would have devoured me with his eyes; and ſometimes he would kiſs me, but that I thought would have made me diſgorge in his face; for, in my opinion, nothing is ſo unnatural as one man's kiſſing another, though I fear it is but too common now-a-days with what they call pretty-fellows, a crime that cannot be too much deteſted. However, my lover was none of thoſe, for he really took me for a woman. In two or three days we be-

came ſo intimately acquainted, that he grew impudent, and one day catched at me, endeavouring to ſeize that part where female honour ſhould ever be upon the guard; and now he had like to have ſpoiled all, for he happened to meet with ſomething ſo ſtiff, that I muſt have been blown had not my Enamorato miſtaken it for the end of my buſk. I ſhewed myſelf highly diſpleaſed at this indecency, and expreſſed my reſentment in very ſevere terms. The next morning he courted me to a reconciliation with a preſent of a very pretty diamond ring, by which he ſeemed well acquainted with the ſex, for nothing is more likely to gain a conqueſt than preſents of that kind genteelly beſtowed. With much importunity I accepted his peace-offering; but upon condition that he ſhould never attempt to commit the like offence. I was in nothing ſo much perplexed as how to dreſs myſelf when my cloaths were off. I duſt not lay

two

two things together for fear of a miſtake, there were ſo many baubles; I was once or twice going to write down an inventory, and the proper places they belonged to; when I viewed them on the table they repreſented ſuch a Babel of confuſion, that I thought nothing leſs than a miracle could produce order from: but I ſo improved myſelf, by hourly practice, and by obſerving others, that at laſt I got the knack of it. Then I began to new-model my ſteps, which were before two large by three-quarters; next, by the help of my glaſs, I learned to leer, ogle, and languiſh. My feet, like traytors, I kept cloſe priſoners, leſt the ſight of them ſhould, like the Devil's cloven foot, betray me.

Well, I now thought it time to march off, but not before I had plucked my widgeon; and having a convenient opportunity, when none but he and I were preſent, I pretended to have had a

a great

a great diſappointment in not receiving ſome money I expected, and that my rents were not due till a week after, and therefore I ſhould be much obliged to him, I ſaid, if he would lend me ten pounds for eight days, when I would faithfully repay him, with many thanks, for ſo great an obligation. He was rejoiced, he told me, that I would do him ſo great an honour, as to accept of his ſervice in ſuch a trifle, and flew like lightning to his ſcrutore, bringing out a purſe of money; he humbly begged I would take twenty inſtead of ten pounds, for fear of any accident, I told him, it was too much, however, I took it, and immediately ordered a coach to be called, ſaying, I had buſineſs in the city; my cully would fain have waited on me, but I told him it was abſolutely improper, for my affairs were of that nature, that they could not be tranſacted, but with great privacy; whereupon he deſiſted.

COMING into Birchin-lane, I went to a Saleſman, and there purchaſed, as for my maid ſervant, an ordinary, yet decent, petticoat and jacket, with all other appurtenances ſuitable to a cleanly houſe-maid. Inſtead of returning to my lodgings I took a coach and drove to one of the principal nurſeries in Whetſtone's-park; for I looked upon it as a matter of no great importance, either to take leave of my young gallant at home, or my landlady, not having left the leaſt thing behind me, as a mortgage for my rent.

UPON my firſt viſit to that corpulent Matron, mother Cunny, in Whetſtone's-park, I was recived with all the demonſtrations of joy imaginable; and the good gentlewoman could not forbear expreſſing her great ſatisfaction, in that her civil and honeſt deportment ſhould be an inducement to ſtrangers, to ſhelter themſelves under her protection. She highly applauded

plauded both my features and complexion, and ſaid, my hair, which was flaxen, was of the right amorous colour, and would warrant I was as full of love as an egg's full of meat. My ſtature, ſhe told me, was ſtately, but rather of the talleſt: Well, honey, ſaid ſhe, you ſhall be an Alderman's lady before to morrow; and never the worſe neither, for Alderman Fumble pays well for doing nothing.

The careful old lady had no ſooner ſaid this, but ſhe was called down to a roaring Damboy that was juſt entered the houſe; and I, having the curioſity to liſten a little upon the ſtairs, heard her giving him an account of, what a rare treaſure ſhe had above, which nobody ſhould be bleſt with the ſight of, ſhe was reſolved, 'till he had had the refuſal of it. In ſhort, he was ſoon brought up into the chamber where I was, and behaved civily for a little while. But, O! Heavens! how great

was

was my confuſion, when neither ſtrength of argument, or force of hands, could repel the fury of his luſt. I defended myſelf manfully a long time; but ſeeing it was impoſſible to hold out any longer, without being diſcovered, I was forced to cry aloud for help.

THIS ſo alarmed my ſpark, who concluded my outcry proceeded not ſo much from chaſtity as a deſign to trepan him, that he drew his ſword, and making towards the ſtairs, ran down with more haſte than good ſpeed; for in his way he overturned the old bawd, who was coming up to my relief, and ſo both rolled down to the bottom of the ſtairs, one over the other. The poor gallant was ſo overpowered by fear, that he took the old Matron for the bully that, he thought, I had called to my aſſiſtance; therefore took to his heels, and ran into the ſtreet, and away, without once looking behind him.

WHEN

When the bawd, by the help of a dram or two, was brought to herſelf, ſhe began to catechiſe me about my behaviour, aſked what I could mean by making that outcry; the Captain had nothing, ſhe ſaid, that a woman need be afraid of him. She ſaid, I ſhould be the ruin of her houſe, and ſhould not ſtay in it for an hundred pounds. I told her I did not intend it, for I could not brook ſuch a courſe of life, to be at the beck of every boiſterous ruffian whenever he thought proper, without the leaſt ceremony, or conſulting one's inclination. Marry, come up, cried ſhe, you want to pick and chooſe your lovers do you? And then be courted to the pleaſure? I ſhould thrive finely by ſuch delicate airs; No, no, whoever hath the benefit of my protection, muſt reſolve to take all fiſh that comes to net. Well, Madam, ſaid I, I cannot have done you much damage yet, and whatever it be I will make you amends for it. For, as I can-

cannot live up to the condition in which I have been bred, I will even get into ſome honeſt ſervice, rather than lead this life; and I have a mean habit here, fit for the purpoſe, that I brought in a bundle, which, with your permiſſion, I will now put on, and leave you theſe cloaths on my back, as a ſatisfaction for the trouble I have given you. This was a propoſition that could not be diſpleaſing to her; ſo ſhe ſaid, ſhe would not endeavour to perſuade me to any thing againſt my inclinations; though really her way of buſineſs, ſhe thought, more preferable than going to ſervice.

Being diveſted of my gentility, and now dreſſed up like a tight country girl, I took my way towards Hackney, where, being arrived in the evening, I went to a decent publick-houſe, and aſked if I could have a lodging there; and was anſwered, that I might, and welcome. The good

woman of the houſe, ſeeing me look a little diſconſolate, as ſhe thought, aſked me very kindly many queſtions about my condition; I told her ſo many plauſable ſtories of my pretended misfortunes, as that my father was dead in the country, and left behind him a cruel mother-in-law, that uſed me very ill, which made me reſolve to come towards London to ſeek for a ſervice, &c. that ſhe took great pity of me, and ſaid, ſhe believed it was in her power to help me, for they juſt then wanted a houſe-maid at Madam Brockſtone's boarding-ſchool; therefore bade me to be of good cheer, for ſhe would go in the morning and ſpeak a good word for me, and did not doubt of ſucceſs. The very name of the boarding ſchool ſet me in a flame, for I had obſerved two or three of the prettieſt young creatures looking out of the window there, that I had ever beheld in my life. I returned her many thanks, and ſaid it would be an

act

act of great charity, and I ſhould think myſelf obliged to pray for her. To make ſhort of the ſtory, my landlady of the Royal-Oak did my buſineſs the next day, prevailing with the miſtreſs of the boarding-ſchool to take me into her ſervice, by the name of Joan Hutchinſon: but when I came to uſe the utenſils in the kitchen, I handled them ſo ſcurvily, that it made the giggling jades, my fellow-ſervants, ready to crack their ſides with laughing; and, to make ſtill more ſport with me, the ſecond day I was in my new ſervice, there being ſome roaſt-meat to be ſpitted; the reſt of the maids got all out of the way to ſee what I would do with it: I pulled and hauled it ſo, that when it was on the ſpit nobody could tell what joint it was. In ſhort, I was ſo ignorant in all houſhold affairs, that my miſtreſs told me ſhe muſt diſcharge me; upon which I fell a blubbering, and ſaid, I would do any thing to ſerve ſo good a gentlewoman; that i

was true I had been always bred up in an obſcure country village, and knew but little; but I was very deſirous to learn; and that, if ſhe pleaſed, I would ſerve her for nothing, valuing experience more than wages; beſides, I added, that I had twenty pounds left me by my father, that nobody could hinder me of; and, if ſhe would give me leave, I would put that in her hands as ſecurity for my honeſty.

THE good old gentlewoman being much pleaſed with my ſimplicity, and modeſt behaviour, ſaid, ſhe would try a little what could be done with me, and preſently ordered her maids to teach me all they could, without making a jeſt of the poor innocent creature, as ſhe was pleaſed to call me. By making a diligent uſe of my time, I very ſoon came to have a competent knowledge of my buſineſs, and was well approved of by every body in the houſe; the young ladies would romp

and play with me; my miſtreſs ſpoke very kind to me; and my fellow-ſervants and I agreed very well: but the greateſt difficulty I had to conquer was, to conceal my ſex, from a buxom young wench who was my bed-fellow. I had many ſtruggles between inclination and prudence; however, the latter ſo far got the better, that I made no diſcovery till I had got into many of her ſecrets, and then I thought I might truſt her with one of mine.

One night I perceived her very reſtleſs, continually ſighing and tumbling, then laying her leg cloſe to mine, and preſſing me in her arms, which was undoubtedly owing to a ſtrong ſympathy of nature, as I gueſſed by myſelf, for my heart beat ſo as if it would burſt from my breaſt. I thought I could do no leſs than aſk her the meaning of her diſquiet; when ſhe ſaid, with a ſigh, "Dear Joan,

I will

I will lay open my whole heart to you: Our coachman, for several months, hath expressed a more than common respect for me; and indeed, though I endeavoured to conceal that affection I have for him, I could not but give him some hopes; but my misery is, that we had different ends in view: mine was to have him marry me; but his, only to gain a present enjoyment; but finding me obstinate, and not yielding to his solicitations, he begins to slight me, and is continually toying, before my face, with the other maids, who, I am persuaded, will soon surrender, and then I may lose him for ever. Now, dear Joan, let me tell thee, I can bear it no longer; but, if he makes the least overture to me, I must give way to his desires." I endeavoured to dissuade her from this rash resolution with all the rhetoric I was master of; telling her, that if he could thus slight her before enjoyment, she had but little to expect from him afterwards; but

all

all ſeemed to no purpoſe; for ſhe deſired, at all adventures, that Thomas might once more renew his addreſſes, and wiſhed ſhe had him then in her arms, at the ſame time giving me an eager embrace. This I thought was the critical moment to diſcover myſelf; whereupon, returning the embrace, Come, come, ſaid I, I will ſoon put you out of conceit with Thomas, and cure this malady that diſturbs you. So, after enjoying her, to keep what I was going to relate a ſecret, which I thought ſhe would have done for her own ſake; I made her ſenſible of my being as well able to ſatisfy her longing as any Thomas of them all. She was ſo delighted, that ſhe ſwore Thomas henceforward ſhould not keep the leaſt corner in her heart. It was the cuſtom of the young ladies, almoſt every night, to run ſkittiſhly up and down into one anothers chambers, and ſometimes into the maids; and I was ſo peſtered by them that they would

hardly

hardly let me ſleep: but I had an excellent guardian in bed with me, who would not let any of them come in to us, reſolving to monopolize me to herſelf. It was good ſport to obſerve how this maid would always follow me about like my ſhadow, and whatever I was doing would have a hand in it. What an endleſs buſineſs did we make of only toſſing up a bed, or folding a few napkins? My miſtreſs ſaw her work greatly neglected, laying all the blame on my bed-fellow, and truly not without cauſe; for her mind was ſo employed in thinking of night, that ſhe did little buſineſs all day. At length my miſtreſs, ſeeing how careleſs and ſlatternly ſhe was grown, turned her away. This was no ſmall joy to me, for I had had enough of her; and I found that her extreme fondneſs would very ſhortly have betrayed me.

AFTER the departure of my bed fellow, the young ladies pitying my lonely condition,

tion, would come to keep me company. The firſt had like to have ſpoiled all by her ſqueaking; but ſome of the girls running to know what was the matter, ſhe readily told them ſhe thought there was a mouſe in the bed; this ſatisfying them, they went out of the room, and I was left to enjoy one of the ſweeteſt creatures in the world; having firſt enjoined her to ſecrecy: but, alas! all injunctions on women to keep a ſecret, are but ſo many perſuaſions to divulge it. For, notwithſtanding ſhe had promiſed ſilence, ſhe could not forbear telling what had happened to ſome of her peculiar friends and companions, intending that they ſhould participate with her in the pleaſures ſhe enjoyed. This brought me to an extreme hard taſk; and which, but for the ſake of dear variety, I ſhould never have been able to have gone through. Thus was I revelling in joys every night, and gathering theſe ſweet roſe buds for many months to-

together, 'till I was forced to fly from the danger that was but too evidently coming upon me, and from the alteration I perceived in the young ladies bodies, and the frequent ſqualms that came over their ſtomachs in a morning: In ſhort, one-half of the ſchool were with child, which made me think it high time to get out of the way; and, to favour my eſcape, it happened very luckily that my miſtreſs had juſt then a ſon come home from ſea, where he had been with the King's letter; and, being exactly of my ſtature, I made bold with one of his ſuits of cloaths, and other accoutrements, which I put on, reſuming my proper ſhape, and marched off, early one morning, before any of the family was ſtirring, with the twenty pounds in my pocket, and the diamond ring, that I had obtained in my laſt adventure. I could not help pitying the poor girls; and yet it made me laugh when I thought what a ſcene it would be to have ſo many

goſ-

gossipings in one house at a time; and was puzzled to think where they would find godfathers for them.

CHAP. V.

CHAP. V.

What a trick Jeremy put upon a young fellow of his acquaintance, and how he was bit by it himſelf, being thereby reduced to extreme poverty. What arch pranks he played with Mr. Godfrey, the vintner, in Eaſt-cheap, and his wife, as well as others, to relieve his neceſſities.

I MADE all the haſte I could to London, knowing the largeneſs of that vaſt city would afford moſt convenience for my concealment; but my cloaths much troubled me, for I thought nothing would ſooner betray me. Whilſt I was conſidering with myſelf what to do, a lucky accident happened in my favour: I met a young man of my former acquaintance among the ſociety of apprentices, who ſeemed extremely glad to ſee me; and we went into a houſe to drink together.

Over

Over our cups I began to enquire after his condition; he ſhook his head, and told me he had been very unfortunate, and that the cauſe had been his own vanity and ſelf-conceit; for that he lived with a very good maſter and miſtreſs, where he had every thing he could reaſonably deſire; but that, miſtaking his miſtreſſes good-nature and civility for love, he had wrote her an amorous epiſtle, deſiring an aſſignation with her, which ſhe ſeemed to conſent to; but when the time appointed was come, inſtead of his miſtreſs his maſter met him, and, with a horſe-whip, had ſo belaboured him, that he was glad to make his eſcape out of the houſe, and now knew not what to do with himſelf. After I had lamented his misfortune, and drank a cup or two more, I began to think of executing the deſign I had upon him. I aſked what I ſhould give to exchange cloaths with him; he ſaid, he ſuppoſed I was in jeſt; for mine ſeemed to be a great

deal better than his; No matter for that, ſaid I, I will give you half-a-crown. Done, ſaid my friend, for I want money ſo greatly, that if mine had been as much better than your's, as your's ſeem to be beyond mine, I would have taken that: ſo to ſtripping we went, when I had firſt paid him the half-crown I propoſed to him. We had not quite made an end before I eſpied one coming into the houſe with a conſtable, who, it ſeems, had a warrant to take me up for robbing my miſtreſs's houſe; but I was known by nothing but her ſon's cloaths, which were deſcribed to the firſt fellow, and he had dogged me into the place where I then was, and afterwards fetched the Conſtable. They forthwith laid hold of my companion, finding the cloaths on his back, telling him, He ſhould ſeverely ſuffer for the wrong done his miſtreſs in the abuſe of her houſe. Full of horror and amazement he beſeeched them not to carry him before his miſtreſs;

treſs; he owned he had greatly offended her, and to be ſure ſo good and virtuous a woman could never forgive what he had done. This indeed left them no ſcruple about their having the right perſon. The more he intreated, the more deaf and inexorable were they; and whilſt they were buſy with their miſtaken criminal, I took an opportunity to give them the ſlip, knowing that a little farther diſcourſe would rectify their error. What they did with him I know not, and I had enough to do to take care of myſelf; for, to my great mortification, I found that in the hurry I was in to make an end of dreſſing; when I ſaw the Conſtable coming, I had quite forgot to take my money out of my pocket, ſo that I had left my comrade in poſſeſſion of near twenty pounds, beſides my diamond ring, whilſt I had only for myſelf the poor half-crown that I had given him to change cloaths with me: I cannot ſay I had a light heart and a thin

pair of breeches; for I do not remember that I was ever more vexed and melancholic in my whole life; it was not only a great diſappointment to me, but a diſgrace to my underſtanding. I thought, that I, who had ſo many ingenious contrivances to get other people's money from them, ſhould now part with my own ſo much like a fool; the two hundred pounds I was robbed of did not ſo much grieve me as theſe twenty; becauſe, in that caſe, I had nothing to reproach myſelf with. Well, I was to caſt about for more; but nothing immediately offered, and towards evening I began to be very hungry, and had no lodging; ſo I went to a houſe in White-Chaple, where I knew there was good entertainment, and a bed at any time for a gueſt. Here I thought I ſhould get meat, drink, and lodging for chalk, and chalk for nothing. I called about me for a great many things that were the choiceſt and moſt expenſive, and, I believe, did

eat in a voracious manner, which made the drawers take notice of me, and, I ſuppoſe, tell their miſtreſs that I did not ſeem, by my dreſs, and way of eating, to be uſed to ſuch dainties, who was thereupon on her guard, and, when I called for candles to go to bed, ſhe came into the room to me, and told me, It was the cuſtom of her houſe to reckon with her lodgers, every night, for what they had had in the day, and to have her lodging diſcharged once a-week. In truth, I had intended to have diſcharged myſelf before the week had been out; but I knew not what anſwer to make her for the preſent. After a little pauſe, I told her, ſhe put me quite out of countenance with her demand, and that I ſhould not be able to ſatisfy it; but I deſired her to be contented 'till to-morrow, when my portmanteau and trunks would be brought to her houſe, which I would make my quarters for ſome time, and that ſhe ſhould find me a boon-

companion, who would eat and drink freely: I believe ſo, ſaid ſhe, you would, if you could be here for ſome time; or, it may be, a deſign only to make this your refuge or ſanctuary for one night; and then you ſay you will eat and drink freely; that is, I ſuppoſe, at free coſt; but, Sir, give me my reckoning now, or you have no lodging here, I aſſure you. Do you ſuſpect me, landlady, ſaid I: Reſpect you, ſaid ſhe, (miſtaking the word) for what, unleſs I knew you better; and yet, I doubt, I ſhall know you too well. That is a good one indeed! Reſpect ſuch a ſkinful of bones, ſuch a bundle of faggot-ſticks; Why, thou haberdaſher of ſmall wares! Doſt thou think I can reſpect thee for any thing but thy money; unleſs I ſhould be ſo mad as to fall in love with famine, of which thou art the picture. Come, come, give me my reckoning, and then I may talk to thee in another dialect; if not, I ſhall ſet my bull-dogs upon you, that

that is, my tapſter, my hoſtler, my cook, and my chamberlain. Hearing her ſay this, I expected no mercy; and, think-the coaſt was clear, I betook myſelf to flight; but, as ill luck would have it, the tapſter lay aſleep on the bench at the door with his legs ſtretched out, over which I fell, and awakening him, he laid faſt hold of me, and, before I could riſe, I had three or four upon me together, who, I thought, would have limbed me, as boys, falling out, do their cocks on a Shrove-Tueſday. At this time I would almoſt have compounded with one limb to have ſaved the reſt. After theſe mercileſs creatures had pummelled me a ſufficient while to have wearied their own arms, as well as ſeverely bruiſe mine; the miſtreſs, with her ſhrill voice, cried out, Strip the rogue; Ay, ay, ſays the cook-wench, as naked as ever he was born. No, ſaid the chamberlain, who ſeemed to have the moſt compaſſion; I fancy if we take his coat

it

it will be enough for the reckoning if he has no money: Well then, indeed, ſaid I, I have none, being willing to ſave my half-crown; knowing, that if I had given them that they would not have ſpared my coat. I was immediately uncaſed, and, with two or three kicks, ſent about my buſineſs. And truly I now began to wiſh I had ſome lawful buſineſs to go about; for I found that whatever I got by my thieving and cheating would never continue with me; that I every day riſked my neck; and the few pleaſures I had, were attended with ſuch fears and diſaſters, that they gave but little ſatisfaction. As I had ſomething in my very nature that inclined me to roguery, and as I had been a thief almoſt from my cradle, theſe reflections were not likely to dwell long upon my mind; but I ſoon returned to the old trade. I was unwilling to venture into another houſe that night, upon any adventure, in the plight I was in, and, at the ſame time,

did

did not care to tap my ſolitary half-crown; therefore, it being pleaſant weather, and ſummer time, I reſolved to take up my lodging in the fields; accordingly, I went to a convenient place, between Mile-end and Stepney, and there kicked up a cow; this was what I had often heard of, but never tried before, and I muſt needs ſay it is a comfortable kind of lodging; the reader, if he happens to be in the like diſtreſs at any time, is to be informed, that the method is to kick up the beaſt, and lie down in the warm place ſhe leaves. When the bluſhing morn appeared, and I had riſen from my verdant bed, I began to lament the loſs of my coat; for, poor as it was, it had been faithful to its firſt maſter; and not being able to have a nap, on account of his poverty, was really become a changeling; yet it was ſerviceable to him, and would have been ſo to me, I dare ſay.

STROLLING

STROLLING along in my waiſtcoat, I came into Eaſt-Cheap, juſt by the door of old Godfrey,* the Vintner, of poiſonous memory, whom I heard, juſt then, calling one of his men to go for the barber, and bid his god-ſon come to ſhave him immediately; this put a lucky thought in my head, how I might have an opportunity of plundering the old fellow, who was very rich; ſo I went to the next corner, and waited till I ſaw the boy coming along with his implements, and, taking him aſide, Hearkee, ſaid I, are not you Mr. Godfrey's god-ſon: Yes, Sir, anſwered the lad, and your name, ſaid I,———is Simon, cried the boy. Well, Si. you

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* *This piece of* Jeremy's *roguery was ſo well known, that it was made the ſubject of a Play called,* The Match in Newgate.

muſt

muſt lend me your baſon and razors, with your apron, ſaid I, for I am going to ſhave your god-father, only in a frolic, and do you go over the way to the ale-houſe, where I will bring your things, and give you a teſter for yourſelf to go to Bartholomew-fair with. The boy thanked me kindly, and did as I deſired him. Whereupon I tied on my apron, and went boldly to ſhave the Vintner, which I meant to do in a double ſenſe. When I firſt entered the room, he aſked me for his god-ſon Simon; I told him Simon was gone out, before he ſent, to ſhave another gentleman; but, becauſe he was in haſte, my maſter ſent me, though a ſtranger, to him; and I did not doubt but that I ſhould do his worſhip's buſineſs very well. After the cloth was tucked under his chin, and I had begun to lather his chops, as uſual, he aſked me abundance of queſtions; as, How long I had been a barber? And what I was bred to? I anſwered, that I had

had been originally bred to the ſea. How came you to leave that, ſaid he, the many misfortunes, I replied, that I had met with there, had quite deterred me from ever venturing again: and ſo I began to amuſe him with the following rigmirole ſtory. In my firſt voyage, Sir, ſaid I, we met with three Algerine pirates, which we made all the ſail from we could; but, being deep laden, found it impoſſible; and I having heard the miſeries thoſe men go through, who are made their ſlaves, I choſe rather to run the hazard of being drowned than made their priſoner, and ſo prevailed upon the cooper of our ſhip to barrel me up in an oatmeal caſk, with ſix biſcuits, clapped a ſtrong cork into the bung-hole, and fling me over-board, which was done accordingly. There was I toſſed upon the ſeas, for eight days together, 'till I was almoſt ſtarved, for I had nothing but theſe ſix biſcuits to live on. At laſt, as fortune would have it, a Dutch

man

man of war ſailing along, and eſpying a barrel floating on the ſea, manned out their long boat, and brought me on board. I was ſo faint for want of air and victuals, that I was not able to ſpeak; but I heard them diſputing what it was that ſhould be in the barrel: one ſaid it was beef, another ſaid it was butter, and a third ſaid it was oatmeal; at laſt the Cooper was called to beat out the bung, which he did, and let out ſuch a fume, that they all concluded it ſtunk like the Devil: at laſt, one of the Sailors putting in his hand to feel what it was, I whipt his fore finger and thumb into my mouth, and bit them cleverly off; for, you muſt know, I was curſed hungry, with that, the fellow roared out, it was the Devil; the Cooper clapt the bung into the barrel again, and toſſed me over-board. Oddsbobbs, ſaid the Vintner, that was ill luck indeed; but how didſt thou eſcape at laſt? By meer providence, anſwered I, after floating

ing about in the barrel for twelve days more, with nothing but the man's finger and thumb to live upon. O pox! twelve days! Barber, that could never be. It is true, Sir, ſaid I, as I am an honeſt man: At laſt, I found it was ſtun aſhore by the tide; and, thinking to myſelf, I might as well be drowned as ſtarved; for, by this time, you muſt know, I had not ſo much as a nail of the man's finger and thumb left; I ſtruck out the bung, and, putting my head out for a little freſh air, found I was caſt aſhore in Greenland; immediately, Sir, I eſpied a white fox come galloping down to the ſea-ſide; with that I whipped my head into the barrel again, knowing it to be a moſt furious beaſt of prey. How big was this white fox? cried the cully: Somewhat bigger, Sir, ſaid I, than a large Flanders mare. Down, I ſay, he came to the barrel; ſo, ſmelling whereabout I was, he roared like a lion; but, as providence would have it, that very

very moment a fly ſtung him by the buttocks, he turned round to rub himſelf againſt the barrel, his tail lying over the bung-hole, I clapped faſt hold of it with both my hands; the fox, frightened at that, fell a galloping as if the Devil was at his tail, and drew the barrel with me in it, over hedge and ditch, for three-and-twenty miles together; but at laſt, jumping into a wood, and running full ſpeed between two trees, that ſtood very cloſe together, ſtaved the barrel all to pieces; away ran the fox, and out came I. O Barber, Barber, this muſt be a gun! ſaid the old fellow. Every Word true, replied I, or I wiſh I may never ſhave again. So, Sir, continued I, travelling to the port I met an Engliſh veſſel, and ſhipped myſelf a paſſenger, and came home in her.

During the time of my telling this ſtory, I had caſt my eyes about in every

creek and corner of the room, and, in one part of it, I eſpied a money-bag of a pretty tolerable ſize, which I reſolved to have one flap at. So bidding him wink, that my ball might not make his eyes ſmart, I lathered his face all over, whipped up the bag under my apron, and puſhed clean out of the houſe, leaving the poor Vintner in the ſuds.

When I had got at ſuch a diſtance, as I thought myſelf out of danger, I went into a publick-houſe; there examining my bag, I found there were two-and-forty Pounds in it. Now I was made a man again. I flung away my apron, having, I thought, got enough by my trade, as a Barber: and taking a turn to a Sale-ſhop, in Birchin-lane, (but not the ſame) where I purchaſed my houſe-maid's apparel, I equipped myſelf from top to toe with a good genteel garb. After this, going in my new dreſs down Lombard-ſtreet, who ſhould

ſhould I ſee but old Godfrey, talking to a Goldſmith at his ſhop-door; and, when I came near him, I found he had been relating the whole ſtory of the trick that had been put upon him by the Barber's boy; ſwearing, that if ever he could meet with him, he would ſhew him no mercy. At the ſame time, he was ſending the Goldſmith's man home with a large ſilver tankard, and bade him be ſure to deliver it into his wife's own hands, and tell her he ſhould be at home in little more than an hour.

My chops watered at this tankard, and, thinks I to myſelf, as the wife never ſaw me, I may ſurely bite her as eaſily as I did her huſband. Or elſe my wit's not ſo ſharp as it uſed to be. With that, I went to a Fiſhmonger's, and, buying a handſome jole of freſh ſalmon, I marched with it towards Godfrey's in Eaſt-Cheap, where I ſaw the Goldſmith's man

come out; ſo, waiting a little, I then went and aſked for Mrs. Godfrey, I ſhould have told the reader that I had enquired the Goldſmith's name in Lombard-ſtreet, and found it was Schrimpſhaw: Mrs. Godfrey coming into the paſſage to me, I preſented my pretended maſter, Mr. Schrimpſhaw's, ſervice to her, and told her, he had ſent her that jole of ſalmon for a preſent; and that he intended to come, in about an hour's time, to hanſel the new tankard; but, in the mean time, Mr. Godfrey deſired ſhe would ſend it back, that the firſt letter of their names might be graved upon it, which had been forgot: It is very well, ſaid ſhe, I ſhall be glad to ſee Mr. Schrimpſhaw, and thank him for his kind preſent; But did my huſband ſend no token for the delivery of the tankard? Yes, ſaid I, that he was in the ſuds in the morning. Ay, replied ſhe, that is a ſure, but a very melancholy token: Pray commend me to

your

your maſter and miſtreſs, and ſo gave me the tankard; which, I thought, it would be beſt to get rid of as ſoon as I could, before publick notice was given of the robbery; therefore carrying it to a Pawn-Broker, I borrowed ten pounds upon it.

I WAS ſo puffed up with the ſucceſs of theſe two laſt adventures, that I began to think ſtealing ought to be reckoned among the liberal ſciences; for, though it may be called a handicraft, yet it cannot be looked upon as mechanic; and really ſo proud was I of my profeſſion, that I could not let any opportunity ſlip of putting it in practice; but ſeeing a handſome cloak in a parlour in Chancery-lane, with the door open, I could not reſiſt ſuch a temptation, although I had then full fifty pounds in my pockets, purloyned from the poor Vintner; but in I went, having an excuſe at my tongue's end, if I had met any to queſtion

queſtion me: that not happening, I came ſafe off with my prize, for a ſhort ſpace; but O! my fright and diſtraction is not to be deſcribed, when coming into Fleet-Street, my friend Godfrey meets me full but, and lays violent hands upon me. I aſked him the meaning of it, and told him, he had ſurely miſtaken the perſon. No, damme, he ſaid, he would uſe me as bad as the white fox had done: villain, that I was, to cheat him twice in one day, and of ſo much. I ſtruggled hard to get from him; at laſt, unbuttoning my cloak, I whirled myſelf round, and hung it cleverly on his ſhoulders, with the wrong ſide out, giving a ſpring at the ſame time, I got croſs the way, and could not forbear looking behind me, when, to my great joy, I ſaw he was prevented from purſuing me, by being ſeized by the Conſtable, and a great mob of people, who had, it ſeems, followed me for the cloak; and not having perceived how I

had

had ſhifted it from myſelf, laid hold of the Vintner: and the owner, as I afterwards learned, ſwearing poſitively to the cloak, and that he had ſight of the thief almoſt from the time of its being ſtolen, to that of his finding it on his back. Poor Godfrey was committed to Newgate, and had a hard eſcape for his life.*

AFTER I had dodged about through ſeveral bye allies and lanes, I came to the new Gaming Ordinary, in Bell-Yard,

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* *This Cloak, in the Play beforementioned, is ſuppoſed to be taken from a Fidler; but that is a great miſtake, for Godfrey's Trial was printed; and there it appeared to be the Cloak of one Mr. Marſhal, in Chancery-Lane, a gentleman, who had a Place under the Lord Chancellor Hyde, and was taken out of his parlour in the manner above related.*

and

and there reſolved to throw a merry main or two, which I did, with ſuch ſucceſs, that, by the time the company was ready to break up, I had made my fifty pounds two hundred. This good fortune, as it often happens to young gameſters, gave me ſuch an itch to play, that I could not reſt until I had loſt it all back again, and ſhould as much more, I ſuppoſe, if I had had it. I was not quite ruined in a day or two, having ſometimes good luck, and at other times ill; but, in about a week, I had not a ſhilling left in the world, which brought my former reflection upon my mind of the miſery of the life I was in, ſince I was never able to keep what I got, though I ventured ſo hard for it. And now I reſolved with myſelf, I would try to be honeſt.

CHAP. VI.

CHAP. VI.

JEREMY returns to his former maſter, who treats him with more kindneſs than ever; and he requites him by making him a cukold.

IN order to put the reſolution I had taken in execution, I wrote the following letter to my former maſter.

SIR,

"HAVING ſeriouſly conſidered the heinouſneſs of my crime, as well as the folly of deſerting ſo good a maſter, who rather deſerves the name of a father, with a truly penitent heart, and tears in my eyes, while I am writing this letter, I moſt humbly beg pardon of Heaven and you, hoping your goodneſs will mitigate my offence, by conſidering the little experience

perience I had in the world when I ſo indiſcreetly left your ſervice; but having now a thorough ſenſe of my error, if you ſhall vouchſafe to forgive what is paſt, I promiſe to make the whole buſineſs, and ſtudy of my life, to deſerve your favour. If you will condeſcend to allow me the permiſſion of paying my reſpects and duty to you in perſon, be pleaſed to ſignify the ſame, by the bearer, to,

SIR,

Your ſincerely repentant, and

Ever faithful humble Servant,

JEREMY SHARP.

MY maſter received this letter with a great deal of joy, and haſtened away the bearer to bring me to him. When I came to his houſe he met me with open arms, and told me, that if, as I had promiſed in my

my letter, I was determined to profecute a more regular courſe of life than I had hitherto obſerved, he would forgive and forget all my paſt follies. I told him his goodneſs was ſo great, that I ſhould be the moſt ungrateful and abandoned villain upon earth, if I did not always, and upon all occaſions, ſhew him how ſenſibly I was of it.

As theſe expreſſions gave my maſter much content, ſo, I perceived, by my miſtreſs's eyes, that my return gave her no ſmall ſatisfaction. My maſter began to doat upon me again, ſeeing I daily doubled my diligence; and ſo ready and active was I in every thing relating to his affairs, that it was difficult for him to anticipate me in my good intentions.

This gained ſo much upon his good-nature, that I had the liberty of wearing my hat in the ſhop, and was allowed to

ſit at table with him and my kind miſtreſs. I had ſoon very ſtrong ſolicitations from my *quondam* friends of the Snipping Society; but fearing, that ſome time or other, I might be betrayed by the puſillanimity of ſome of the brethren, who, being detected, might not only confeſs their own failings, but impeach the whole fraternity; I was reſolved to go no more among them; but, as to my reſolution of becoming honeſt, I found that impoſſible: and therefore, when I did pilfer, determined it ſhould be on my bottom, not letting any into a partnerſhip with me. I now kept cloſe to my buſineſs, not giving way to the leaſt extravagance, and only ſtudied how I might more and more deſerve my maſter's good opinion of me. I began again to cant moſt religiouſly, and every Sabbath-day omitted not to take ſermon notes, which I knew was a ſure way to ſkrew myſelf into my miſtreſs's good graces, for ſhe doated on morning exer-

ciſes,

ciſes and monthly faſts; and there were few private meetings, to which, by my maſter's leave, I did not wait upon her; and theſe were ſo many opportunities of breathing her affections to me; for I am ſorry to be ſo uncharitable to ſay, that the zeal of the ſpirit in her was not warmer than that of the fleſh; ſcarce a day paſſed in which I did not receive ſome token of her love, which I received with much reſpect and ſubmiſſion; but pretended not to underſtand her meaning, and that added fuel to her flame. Her courtſhip I thought was a little prepoſterous, ſhe might firſt have received the charge from me; and, by that means, found if I had been prepared, whereas ſhe might, in the way ſhe took, have been deceived in her expectations. As I was one day ruminating on my miſtreſs's behaviour, ſhe came into the counting-houſe where I was writing, and, leaning upon my ſhoulder, aſked me what I was doing; I anſwered, No-

thing but filling up blanks; I believe, ſaid ſhe, you do not know how to do any thing elſe; and then left me very abruptly, not doubting, I dare ſay, but that I had quickneſs of apprehenſion enough to gueſs at her meaning.

Not long after, believing her words had made an impreſſion on me, as indeed they had, and that I ſhould let her know my ſenſe of them, when I had a convenient opportunity; ſhe told my maſter ſhe had a great inclination to make a viſit to a gentlewoman ſhe had not ſeen a long while, who lived on the other ſide of the water, and deſired that I might go along with her, to which my maſter very readily aſſented. When we came to the water-ſide, ſhe ordered me to call a pair of oars, and, being in the boat, ſhe bid the waterman go to Vauxhall, inſtead of croſſing directly over: I muſt own I was a little ſurprized at this, though I partly

gueſſed

gueſſed what ſhe would be at. Finding that I ſat at a diſtance, with the reſpect of a ſervant; Come, cuz. ſaid ſhe, ſit nearer, what art afraid of? Upon that I plucked up my courage; I believe I had, Madam, anſwered I, that we may trim the boat the better, for it ſeems too light on your ſide. This expreſſion I ſaw nettled her; for, with a colour unuſual in her face, ſhe ſhot ſuch a piercing dart from her eyes, that I thought would have gone through my very ſoul. Why, how now, couſin, ſaid ſhe, I thought you had a better opinion of me, I underſtand your words how enigmatical ſoever they may be to any one elſe. I would have made an apology, but ſhe whiſpered in my ear, that if ſhe was light, there was no other cauſe of it but myſelf, and that if I trifled with her paſſion any longer, ſhe would ſit heavy upon my ſkirts. Being arrived at the landing-place, we went ſtrait to the Spring gardens; by the way ſhe told me, I muſt lay aſide

all formality; and, for the better carrying on the design we went upon, she would have me assume the title of her cousin.

Being conducted into an obscure bower, one of Love's chapel's of ease, where, without a clue, it would have been difficult for any to have found us: she first bespoke several eatables, and such wine, as she supposed, would warm my blood; then, when the waiter had left us by ourselves, told me, she would now take off the veil of modesty, and discover the whole nakedness of her heart to me. "The first Time I saw thee, said she, I had an uncommon respect for thee; every thing after increased the ardence of my affection: But, O! the flames I have burnt with, since the night you made that fatal, (or, shall I call it, happy mistake, of coming half-way into the bed to me) are not to be expressed, any more than the

distraction

diſtraction I was in at your leaving our houſe, or my joy at your return. Let me never more endure ſuch racking pains. My life! my joy! I am all madneſs at the thought. I have given way to love, and that alone poſſeſſes all my powers. I would have cruſhed this paſſion in the bud; But what was feeble reaſon when oppoſed by ſuch a foe? To myſelf I urged the diſproportion of our years; the hazard of my reputation; but love, powerful love, ſoon got the victory." Having ſpoken theſe words, ſhe took me by the hand, and dropped her head into my boſom, with a ſigh. Preſſing her to my arms, I raiſed her up, and then, kiſſing her hand, told her, that I was now happier than the greateſt Prince upon the globe; for that I, from the firſt moment I ſaw her, was likewiſe ſtruck with an irreſiſtible paſſion; and that was one reaſon of my quitting her houſe, leſt the extravagance of my love ſhould make me do ſome raſh or indiſcreet

diſcreet thing that might prove my ruin, ſince I could never harbour the leaſt hope of meeting with that happineſs I then enjoyed of being beloved by her again.

Now then, my dear boy, ſaid ſhe, let us ſwear eternal love and conſtancy to one another; but let me conjure you to be careful of my reputation, nor ſuffer the liberty I give you to puff up your vanity, that you may treat me with leſs reſpect than uſual, before my huſband and other ſervants; but when we are in private, then all reſpect and diſtance will be tireſome; and the more freedom you treat me with, the more obliging it will be. With that, rolling her eyes, and breathing ſhort, again ſhe claſped me in her arms, and I ſealed the agreement we had made, without a witneſs. We made an end of our buſineſs for that time, with much expedition, that our long ſtay might give no ſuſ-

picion

picion to the cuckold; for now I had a right to call him ſo.

COMING home, I applied myſelf to the buſineſs of the ſhop moſt diligently; and, when my miſtreſs came into it, I ſcarce ventured to look towards her. When night came, I went to bed, at my uſual hour, but ſleep I could not, for thinking of the paſſed frolic. While I was running over the whole ſcene in my mind, about one o'clock I was much ſtartled, to hear ſomething come ſoftly into my chamber; but I was not long in doubt of what it was, for, in an inſtant, my miſtreſs whipped into the bed to me, without ſpeaking one word, for fear of waking my maſter, who lay in the next room, moſt commonly, by himſelf, and her chamber was within that. I will not put the reader to bluſh, by repeating any thing we ſaid or did together for a few hours. We were both well pleaſed; and, at break of day, my ſweet bed-

bedfellow left me; but, at an unlucky time, for my maſter happened juſt then to be awake, which might have ruined us both, had not he been a man of weak and timerous diſpoſition of mind, and childiſhly afraid of ghoſts and hobgoblins: For hearing the boards of the floor crack, twice or thrice, with the weight of her body, and by the help of her body, and by the help of the the twilight, perceiving ſomething all in white paſs through the room, he ſhunk beneath the bed-cloaths, not daring to put out his head, and then did his imagination ſuggeſt ſtrange and ridiculous things to his fancy: but I ſhall give him leave to tell his own ſtory anon.

A LITTLE after it was day-break, being almoſt ſtifled for want of freſh air, he boldly put his head out of the coverlid, after he had thrice exerciſed the Devil, or ſuppoſed evil ſpirits, with an avaunt Satan;

tan; and repeated these words, "Resist "the Devil and he will fly from thee:" and then he ventured to call as loud as he was able for me to come to him. I leaped out of bed, and ran to him, asking what was the matter. O JEREMY, said he, light a candle; I, running in haste to do what I was bid, made a mistake at the first stept, and tumbled down stairs with a great noise, which my master hearing, cried out, "O Lord! what will become of me? Thinking the Devil had mistaken me for himself, and that he was horsing me on his back to carry me off; whereupon he fell again to praying so loud, that my mistress and the maids ran to see what was the meaning of it: fear still kept so strong possession of him, that he could not at first be persuaded but they were some of the Devil's imps.

THEY believed for a while that he was fallen mad; but, finding out the cause of his

his fears, they made him ſenſible of his miſtake, and that they were not damned ſpirits as yet: But pray, my dear, ſaid my miſtreſs, what is it that has ſo alarmed you?

O! I will tell you all, anſwered he: Being pinched and ſhook, I ſuppoſed, by ſome evil ſpirits, I awaked in the night, and heard no noiſe at firſt but the creeking of boards in the floor, and then ſaw a thing in white, bigger than both the giants in Guildhall, walk acroſs the room; preſently after, I heard the rattling of chains, the ſtools and chairs were toſſed about the room, and the bed, with I in it, raiſed up to the ceiling; when I juſt ventured to peep my head out, I ſaw, ſtanding by me, a compoſition of meer bones, with a ſhrowd thrown over them, like an Iriſh brachin or Scotch plad, with a lighted taper in one hand; but I know not what uſe he could make of it, for

where

where there ſhould have been eyes there were only ſockets, and an hour glaſs in the other: he grinned at me with his teeth, lips he had none; then, ſhaking his chains, vaniſhed.

My miſtreſs afterwards told me, ſhe had much ado to refrain from burſting into a violent laughter, but kept it in for fear of incenſing her good man, who was not, for a long time, to be perſuaded to lie any more in that chamber, which made me curſe the ſtrength of his imagination, that had forced him to bed to his wife, and thereby deprived me of the paſtime both ſhe and I had propoſed to ourſelves. For my part, I thought he would never have returned to his own chamber again, for he trembled when he paſſed through it in the day time. But, ſoon after, another accident happened that cured him of part of his ridiculous conceit. It chanced, that, on a beam that went croſs the cellar,

there were a great quantity of tenter hooks to hang meat on, and for other uſes; and the cat, being in queſt of the game, her fore feet ſlipping, ſhe was ſtrangely caught by the tail with one of them, and not able to recover herſelf, being greatly pained by the hook, made a moſt hideous ſquawling, which occaſioned the dog to bark; and my maſter and miſtreſs being awakened by the noiſe, he aſked her, if ſhe would now believe her own ears, and what ſhe thought of the houſe being haunted with evil ſpirits now. At firſt, ſhe confeſſed to me, ſhe knew not what to think of it, for, being but a young ſinner, her conſcience was not ſo thoroughly ſeared, but that ſhe had ſome remorſe for the crimes ſhe had committed, and was almoſt afraid that Satan was ſent to buffet her. But having a more maſculine ſpirit, and not ſo eaſily daunted as her huſband, ſhe hearkened farther, and then judged that thieves had broke

broke into the houſe. My maſter was all this while almoſt breathing his laſt at both ends, whilſt my miſtreſs, jumping out of bed, came to my door, and bade me riſe in all haſte, for there were thieves in the houſe. I confeſs I had no great mind to be killed, and therefore was not over and above expeditious in hurrying on my cloaths; but now, buttoning my Doublet, anon I unbuttoned it again, and my miſtreſs perceiving the delays I made, came again towards my chamber, and taxed me with cowardice and want of ſpirit; this rouzed me, and made me reſolve to adventure any thing rather than forfeit her good opinion.

My miſtreſs and the maids (for by this time they were got out too) were only in their ſmocks and under petticoats; ſo, at the head of theſe amazons, I marched boldly down the ſtairs, and groped about in every hole I found big enough for a

man to get into. Deſcending at length into the cellar, we plainly ſaw the cauſe of all our fear and diſtraction hanging by the tail. It was agreed that the cat ſhould be carried up, and the wound in his tail ſhewed to my maſter, to convince him how much he had ſuffered himſelf to be terrified by vain fears, when all the noiſe proceeded only from poor puſs.

When my maſter heard us on the ſtairs, he imagined we had been all deſtroyed, and the rogues were now coming to diſpatch him. Whereupon, as we entered the room, he roared out, "Ay! "ſave my life! and take all I have." His wife, tho' hardly able to ſpeak without laughing, bade him be quite, there was no harm, nor likely to be any; then ſhewed him the bleeding poſteriors of the boot cat: My maſter, aſhamed to think he had diſcovered ſo much timidity on ſo trifling an occaſion; the next night, that

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the whole houſe might ſee what a man of courage he was, ventured to lie again in his own bed by himſelf; which gave my miſtreſs and I an opportunity to renew our amorous commerce.

WHAT with the private preſents I received from my miſtreſs, and the private uſe I made of my curling-irons in the till, I now began to have a pretty handſome ſtock of money by me, and this was daily increaſing; ſo that I thought I might live abroad like a gentleman, and get again into company. I purchaſed a very fine gelding, which I kept at a diſtance from my maſter's houſe, and frequently rid out to take the air; at night I was often at the playhouſe, eſpecially at the Nurſery in Hatton-Garden, where a young fellow of my acquaintance, who had been a neighbour's apprentice, was an actor; with him, and three or four more of the ſame ſtamp, I uſed to ſpend money very laviſh-

ly; and this I was enabled to do by my miſtreſs's great bounty, if I had no other way of getting any; for ſhe ſeldom ſaw a piece of gold in my maſter's hand, but ſhe would be begging it of him with no other intent but to give it to me, beſides all ſhe could ſave in her own expences and houſe-keeping, for ſhe knew that nothing ſerved more to cement affection than the ſodder of gold. My maſter ſeldom denied her any thing; for, like a true cuckold, he was extremely fond of his wife; but when he did, ſhe would take pet, and would not eat; then, binding her head with a clout, looked very pitifully, with many ſuch arts as have a ſtrange effect upon good-natured men: if he aſked her what ſhe ailed, and what ſhe was troubled at, ſhe would reply, "At nothing more "than your unkindneſs, which I believe, "in time, will break my heart;" and then ſhe would weep plentifully, for ſhe had tears at command; at the ſight of which

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the dotard could not help blubbering too; and then, to make an attonement for his crime, would give her ſomething of three times the value ſhe had aſked for before, which was all to my advantage: and I made good uſe of my time; for, notwithſtanding I ſpent a deal of money, I laid up every day (like the provident ant) againſt winter.

A YOUNG man, whom I uſed to take a frolickſome jaunt with ſometimes, knowing what great ſums of money we returned at our ſhop, had like to have drawn me into a ſcrape, which would have cut the thread of this hiſtory very ſhort; for I had certainly been hanged before I had come to the three hundredth page of it, if I had engaged in the buſineſs that, by his means, was propoſed to me. He was daily in company with a fellow who was both

both a clipper and coiner, * trades very much in vogue at that time: this man, it ſeems, was a decayed Goldſmith, ruined by the ſtudy of Chymiſtry, and now lived by particular parts of it; as tranſmuting metals, &c. My friend having told him, that he was acquainted with one who was caſhier and book-keeper to an eminent wholeſale trader, and that great ſums of money paſſed through his hands; the other begged of all things to be brought into my company; thinking, without doubt, that I would be very ſerviceable to him. Accordingly, at my friend's requeſt, (not knowing his trade) I was brought to ſeveral meetings with him,

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* *Theſe were called, according to the cant,* Correctors *and* Matter-men.

before

before any thing was propoſed to me; but we were very merry, drank plentifully, and, by being exceeding complaiſant, we began to be pretty intimate. After which, the diſcourſe happening to be upon Chymiſtry, I ſat very mute, not underſtanding any thing of the matter, yet could not but admire to hear my new acquaintance relate the wonders he could perform in that miſterious art. Pulling a piece of gold out of his pocket, he aſked me my opinion of it, and what I took it to be: I anſwered, that I could judge it to be no other than it ſeemed, pure gold. He, ſmilingly replied, No wonder it ſhould deceive you, ſince it would the moſt critical Goldſmith in town. No doubt, ſaid he, you have heard of the Philoſopher's Stone, and what vaſt eſtates ſome have miſpent in the ſearch of it: how ineffectual all their labour and pains have been is apparent by their wretched condition: but in my art there is no deceit, for I can really

really convert the baſeſt metals into gold and ſilver; ſee this piece, ſaid he, which, according to the terms of our art, is called a Black-Dog, with Queen Elizabeth's Head; this is only pewter double-waſhed. Then here is a George Plateroon, being copper, with a thin plate of ſilver to cover it; and here is a metal called Compoſitum, which will cut and touch, but will not bear the fire. Now if you have a mind to deal this way, I can afford Engliſh cloth; ſo we call our own coin, at ten ſhillings a yard, that is, twenty ſhillings for ten good ones, and an hundred per cent. is no ſmall profit in trade. So much for the firſt branch of our buſineſs. And in the other, if, as you have large ſums of money paſs through your hands, you will lay aſide ſome of the handſomeſt pieces for me; when I have corrected them a little, for broad brimmed hats are now quite out of faſhion, I will return them

them to you with eighteen pence in the pound for intereſt.

All this while I gave him great attention without any interruption; but here, making a ſtop, I thought he expected my anſwer: ſo I thanked him for the proffer of his ſervice to me; and told him, I did not doubt of the intereſt that was to be made by it; but, as there was much hazard in it, I begged a little time to conſider of it. He looked very blank upon this, fearing, I ſuppoſe, that I made this demur, only to betray him; and I ſaw by his countenance, he wiſhed he had been more ſparing in his expreſſions. I I muſt needs confeſs I trembled all the time I was in his company after I underſtood his trade; but I aſſured him, he was very ſafe in me, and that I would never divulge the ſecret he had let me into; but, as to my engaging with him, it required a ſerious conſultation with myſelf,

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and I would, when I came to a reſolution, ſend him an anſwer by my friend; ſo we parted. I ſpent the greateſt part of the night in weighing his propoſals in the balance of profit and preſervation, and found that life's preſervation outweighed all other conſiderations, and that riches would avail but little when a man was riding poſt to the gallows. And how could I hope to eſcape better than others, who were almoſt daily proſecuted on the ſame account: ſo I ſent him a letter, in which I aſſured him, as before, that I would never betray him, but had no thoughts of accepting his generous offer. My new friend did not think it worth while to ſend me an anſwer, nor did I ever ſee him more, 'till the day that he went to be executed at Tyburn; which lot, no doubt, I had ſhared with him, if I had liſted under his banner; for great numbers were taken up at the ſame time that he was; ſome were found out work-

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ing in the obſcureſt places in deep woods; others in a cave on Blackheath; and their ringleader taken in a cellar of his own houſe; whoſe tools, though he had timely notice to removethem, were diſcovered in the mantle-piece of a chimney, made hollow on purpoſe to conceal them, with a ſhutter artfully contrived at one end, ſo that he muſt have been betrayed by one who knew his ſecrets.

AFTER the diſmal cataſtrophe of theſe hazardous fools, I had like to have been brought into great trouble, though not at all guilty of what I was likely to be accuſed of. The affair was this: A knaviſh fellow, who had been a hanger-on, upon ſome of the gentlemen correctors juſt executed, who ſpent their money laviſhly enough, being now out of all other ways of getting any thing to ſupport him, turned informer, and having had notice of my being two or three times in com-

pany with one of the chief among them, came to me one evening, and desired to speak with me in private, which I consenting to, we went to a tavern, and, after a few formalities to usher in the discourse, he told me, that I was taken notice of as a dispenser of counterfeit coin, and that there would be a warrant to apprehend me in a day or two, that this business, if neglected, might prove to my utter destruction; and that, if I thought it worth while to reward him for his trouble, he believed he could put me in a way to stop all proceedings.

I IMMEDIATELY saw the rogue thro' his disguise; and being bold, as I knew myself innocent, instead of giving him thanks I gave him a blow, with all my force, in his face, and then rang the bell to alarm the house. The rascal being well assured that he should find no mercy, if he was known to be an informer, in a public-

public-houſe, made all the haſte he could to the ſtairs; and, making but two ſteps to the bottom, got clear off, and I never heard more of him.

Thus had I two near eſcapes; the firſt, from rejecting the propoſals of my friend, the Chymiſt; and now, from the deſigns of this villainous informer; and ſo far from being a priſoner, my time being out in a few days, I was made free. My maſter ſolicited me to ſtay with him a little longer as a journeyman, which I readily agreed to, knowing it could be but a little longer, for my miſtreſs and I had ſo peelled him, that if he had had as many coats as an onion, we ſhould hardly have left him one to his back. His creditors began to viſit him daily, and his whole ſtudy was how to make fair promiſes, and get excuſes for making them call again. In the danger he was in he never ſtirred abroad, nor even came into the ſhop. So having

having no body to watch me, or at leaſt, that dared to controul me, I conveyed away a great quantity of his goods, intending them for my own uſe, and ſtowed them in a warehouſe, which I had lately very privately hired for that purpoſe.

My Maſter, one night, told me, in great confidence, that he intended to pack up his goods, and to gather in what money he could, and then he would embark for Ireland, taking his wife with him. Hearing that the wife was to go, as I did, at that time, really love her, I ſhewed the greateſt concern imaginable, and I believe my grief was expreſſed in my eyes, which he perceiving, the tears trickled down his cheeks to keep mine company. Well now, ſaid he, I ſee thou loveſt me, and thou haſt ever been a faithful ſervant; but the deareſt friends muſt part: then he wept again; however, I have the comfort of this hope, that we

ſhall ſee one another in Heaven. I had rather, thought I, ſee thee in the Compter, for that may prevent my miſtreſs's going to Ireland; and I am ſure it would have been a heart-breaking ſentence to me to have had her left me juſt then: ſo, from that minute, I contrived how I might make ſure of her, by ſecuring him. This was, I own, very ungrateful and barbarous; but what will not love break through to ſatisfy its ends, when it has got into the heart of one ſo little uſed to any ſentiments of virtue as I was at theſe years. My miſtreſs and I conſulted what to do, and ſometimes we were in the mind to take what money the old fool had, and run away together; but that appearing dangerous, we thought of another ſcheme, and that was to get him arreſted before his intended voyage to Ireland; and then we ſhould have the houſe to ourſelves for a while at leaſt.

About two days after, ſhe informed me that he was, the next morning, to take horſe at Iſlington by break of day, and ſo go away to Weſt-Cheſter. I immediately ſent away to one of his chief creditors an anonymous letter, letting him know my maſter's deſign, and he getting an officer ready, napt him juſt as he was going to mount his horſe. He had not been long in cuſtody before he ſent for me, to adviſe with him what was beſt to be done in this his great extremity. I could do no leſs than ſeemingly to condole with him on his misfortunes, and pretended to be very active in running about to his creditors; but he had better have employed any other Solicitor, for my buſineſs was not to get him his liberty. When he found he muſt inevitably continue a priſoner, he brought a Duce, and removed himſelf to Ludgate; where, in a very ſhort time, he broke his heart with grief.

In the mean time, my miſtreſs had ſecured all ſhe could; which, I managed, as I pleaſed. And, ſoon after, taking my maſter's ſhop and houſe, and bringing his own goods back into it again, might have lived in a flouriſhing condition, had not my extravagance and debaucheries prevented it. My miſtreſs was very importunate with me to marry her. I confeſſed I loved her very well, but not enough to make her my wife; though now ſhe found herſelf with child, and was continually preſſing me to ſave her reputation: but nothing could prevail; I knew ſhe had made one huſband a cuckold, and could not be aſſured ſhe would not do ſo by the next: Beſides, matrimony was always my averſion; and, as it commonly is among young fellows, who fancy themſelves wits, the chief ſubject of my ridicule.

When

When the time of her travail drew near, I took a lodging for her in the country; and, for the laſt fortnight, ſo great a concern I had for her, I continued conſtantly with her. Being in ſtrong labour, ſhe called for me haſtily, and getting my hand within her's, farewel, ſaid ſhe, I die for you, your unkindneſs, in not granting my laſt requeſt of making me your wife, untimely ends my days; then ſhe groaned, and, kiſſing my hand, cried, "Love my memory however;" and ſpoke not another word: the child died likewiſe. This was a ſorrowful ſcene, and the more durable, as I had none of my companions with me to waſh away the thoughts of it in good claret.

After the interment of my late miſtreſs and her child, which I took care to have done in a very decent manner, I returned to my houſe, where I found that my long abſence had raiſed a ſuſpicion in my

my neighbours that I had run away, which did not reſt there; but the report ſoon ſpread among my creditors, and made them both importunate and impatient with me for their money. Some, that would not be put off with promiſes, I was forced to pay, from others I got time, which gave me liberty to proſecute my former courſes; ſpending the greateſt part of my time either in taverns or bawdy-houſes, though I had a Phillis at home; for I would never take a maid that I thought not handſome, and I commonly got the better of her chaſtity, if ſhe had any, by preſents, or, at worſt, a promiſe to marry her, if ſhe proved with child. When I was weary of one, I eaſily found a pretence for a quarrel, and payed her off, that I might get another, who would, in a ſhort time, be wrought upon, as well as her predeceſſors, being ambitious to lie with her maſter, and fooliſhly thinking that, the firſt ſtep to preferment,

ment, the next to be ſure muſt be marriage; and becoming miſtreſs of the houſe. In the three years I was ſet up for myſelf, I had no leſs than nine baſtards; four of them by my maids, which was a vaſt expence to me. Two of the jades would have forced me to have married them, or provide for them, if I had not, by a while, got them down the river, and ſo on board a veſſel bound for Virginia, where I left them, as I had my firſt love, Tabitha, to the mercy of the Captain and his crew.

The danger I was in from my creditors, the expences of my ladies, but more eſpecially the kindneſs of one of them, which obliged me to ſtay at home, and take phyſick, made me begin to look a little into myſelf, and reſolve to reform. I was no ſooner able to come down into my ſhop, but I applied myſelf diligently to buſineſs, giving my conſtant attendance there, and never drank with any but

in

in my own houſe. Every body admired at this ſtrange reformation, and it was the diſcourſe of the whole neighbourhood. The parſon of the pariſh hearing how much I was altered, came to pay me a viſit, which was ſomething extraordinary indeed; for, before this, no one, who had the leaſt regard to his character, would be ſeen in my company, leſt they ſhould be ſuſpected to be as extravagant and debauched as myſelf; for there is no obſervation more common than,

Pares cum paribus facilime congregantur;

Birds of a feather will flock together.

I RECEIVED the Doctor with great reſpect; and I aſſured him, that my reformation was ſincere, and I hoped I ſhould never be the ſame man again that I had been: withal giving him to underſtand,

ſtand, that I had a moſt profound reverence for the Clergy; that, ſaid he, is very good; for having a reſpect for the Clergy is almoſt the ſum total of all religion; for if you reſpect them, you will mind what they ſay, and do as they bid you, and believe as they would have you. I am very well ſatisfied of this, ſaid I, and I am ſure will never preſume to believe for myſelf. He told me, he found I was a very hopeful young man, and he would take the liberty of calling upon me often; which I did not at all doubt, when I had aſked him to dine with me, and ſaw what a ſtomach he had.

In this ſeeming ſtrictneſs of life I continued for ſome months, and my neighbours thought ſo well of me, that I had ſeveral conſiderable matches propoſed to me; but, as I have ſaid before, matrimony was always my averſion: however, it was at length my misfortune to ſee one whom

whom I thought the Phœnix of her ſex, and to whom I was afterwards married, I believe, as a puniſhment for all my crimes.

Her parents were wealthy, and her portion more than I could reaſonably expect. During the time of my courtſhip, ſhe appeared ſo modeſt, that I could not imagine an unchaſte thought had ever entered into her mind: but, on the firſt night of our new ſtate, I had much reaſon to believe my Lucretia was no maid. This ſtruck me with amazement, that were ſuch ſpotleſs virgin-like innocence adorned the face, there ſhould be ſuch black guilt in the heart. I was much perplexed, but dared not give vent to my ſuſpicions, but one-half year put all that matter out of doubt, by my wife's being brought to bed three months before her time; and yet the bawd, her midwife, would have made me believe this was

uſual, and that children, brought forth at ſix months end, might live, and do very well.

Now began our domeſtic wars, which were carried on with ſuch fury, that, in a ſhort time, there was hardly an utenſil in the kitchen that had not flown at one or the other's head. My dearee, in her ſingle ſtate, had acted the part of the Silent Woman as well as Mrs. Epicœne had ever done it on the ſtage; for, before we were married, all her anſwers were comprehended in the two ſhort monoſyllables of Ay and No, and thoſe ſeem to be extorted from her by meer force; but, after her lying-in, her tongue was in perpetual motion, the noiſe of a belfry was nothing to the dinn in my houſe. If I had had a Copperſmith on one ſide of me, with a Pewterer on the other; a Fencing Maſter over my head, and a repeating Poet lodged beneath me: all theſe together

gether would have been reſt and quietneſs compared to the continual clamours of my Xantippe's vociferous harmony. Frequent were her complaints to her Father and mother, ſo that their affections, being entirely alienated from me, they only ſtudied how to get rid of me; her forgeries, to excuſe her diabolical practices, incenſed them to that degree, that they laid an embargo on that part of her portion, not yet paid, adviſing her withal to ſecure what ſhe could for her own preſervation. She followed their inſtructions ſo exactly, that, in a ſhort time, I found myſelf in a very declining condition, yet knew not the cauſe 'till it was too late for a remedy. She had conveyed away part of my goods, and a great deal of my money, part of which went to ſupply her ſtallion.

I was, for a long while, jealous of ſomething like this, but had not ocular

demonſtration, 'till one night, feigning myſelf to be dead drunk, I cauſed myſelf to be brought home upon the back of a porter; my wife received me in that pickle; and, as I could perceive, by peeping a little out of my eye-lids, with much ſatisfaction: I was immediately carried up to bed, and undreſſed with great difficulty, pretending myſelf aſleep all the while, and then my precious ſpouſe left me, and preſently ſent away the bawd, her maid, to order her friend to come to her that evening. About nine o'clock the maid was poſted away to bed, and at ten I heard a ſmall rap at the door, my wife's gallant, for ſuch I afterwards found him, had no occaſion to wait long, for there was one ready to receive him; when I judged they were encircled in each others arms, which I underſtood by liſtening on the ſtairs, and thereby knew what they were about, I ruſhed in upon them with a drawn ſwords, which I had prepared

pared for the purpoſe, deſigning to have rivetted them together; but, making a thruſt at them, I only run it through the fleſhy part of both their thighs. At which they made a moſt hideous outcry, ſo that the maid came running down, and the Watchman that ſtood juſt at my door, hearing the noiſe, knocked hard to be let in to ſee what was the matter; the maid, apprehending the danger, opened the door to him, who, by the help of his candle, ſaw the ſtrange ſight, for I pinned them together, ſo that they could not ſtir: as well as they could ſpeak, they both begged for their lives, which I granted them, my revenge being ſomewhat ſatisfied.

THERE was no concealing this affair; wherefore, in the morning early, I acquainted her parents with what had happened, inſiſting upon it, that, ſince ſhe had thus violently broke the marriage-chain inſtead of putting it off handſomely,

I would never more be faſtened in it. To which I added, that if I had denied her any thing that was requiſite for her, or not performed my duty duly, ſhe would have ſome pretence for ſlighting me, and might have looked upon me only as a falſe crow ſet up in a garden, to keep others from the fruit it cannot taſte itſelf; but, ſince it is otherwiſe, and that ſhe could complain of nothing but my ſometimes endeavouring to curb her inordinate deſires. I expected they would remove her elſewhere, without my having recourſe to the law to tear her from me, which would but the more expoſe us all.

THEY replied not much, but haſtening to their daughter, and fearing worſe miſchief might enſue, inſtantly conveyed her into the country. Her wounds were ſoon cured; and then, not being able to endure a rural and decent life, ſhe returned to the

the city, where ſhe now lives, and, no doubt of it, gives a looſe to her wiſhes.

It was my hard fate to marry thus-like one, who, being doomed to a priſon, was in hopes of getting a-private room there to himſelf; but was diſappointed by being forced on the common-ſide. It is ſtrange that I, of all men, ſhould be deceived, who had known ſuch variety of miſchiefs from the ſex. Had I not been blinded by my paſſion, I might eaſily have ſeen that her carriage, in my preſence, was only like that of a Player acting a part; and that her natural inclinations were hid under the veil of ſilence, and ſeeming modeſty. But ſince I have had ſuch ill luck in marriage myſelf, I ſhall endeavour to give the gentle reader ſome inſtructions, that may ſerve to him as land-marks, or light-houſes, at ſea.

Love, it is confeſſed, is a natural diſtemper, like the ſmall-pox; moſt have either had it, or are to expect it, and the ſooner it comes the better: ſurely I was never well cured of it, or I had not thus fallen into a relapſe. Want of knowledge miſguided me at firſt, and ſo I fell into a quagmire; but I ſhould think myſelf poſſeſſed if I ſhould ever go voluntarily into another. The ſeeds of love, when grown up to matrimony, generally bring forth nothing but diſſatisfaction and ſorrow; yet nothing will content ſome monopolizers but marriage, thinking thereby to engroſs the whole woman, who, perhaps, is never ſo little your own as then. For if ſhe is young, ſhe is like an hawk upon her wing; and if ſhe is handſome, ſhe is the more ſubject to go out at check. Faulkeners, that can but ſeldom ſpring right game, ſhould ſtill have ſomething to take them down. The lure, to which all ſtoop in this world, is either gar-

garniſhed with profit or pleaſure; and, when you cannot throw her the one, you muſt be content to ſhow out the other. Conſider again, that woman, beſides the trouble, is a rent-charge, which, though the curioſity of man, doth often attempt to incloſe; yet is there one gap, that, for his life, he cannot ſo well ſtop, but it will lie open to a ſtragler; and then what boots all his pains? Was a woman ſecured like a fortified town, yet even there the ſalli-port is open to let in friends: if men give not their wives permiſſion to do as they liſt, they muſt wink when they take it, or do worſe: croſs them, and they will not leave a croſs in your pocket, if they can help it. Take it in any ſhape, and marriage is the deareſt way of curing love.

CHAP. VII.

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JEREMY cheats his creditors by knavishly breaking, and runs away for Ireland. He is shipwrecked on the Isle of Man; arrives in Dublin, and changes his name.

WHILST my credit was good, I thought good to make use of it, lest (that failing) I might want an opportunity to march off with flying colours. To raise my reputation among my neighbours, who I knew would spread abroad what they had seen, I caused a Porter, whom I had entrusted with a hundred pounds, to bring that, with four or five hundred pound bags more, filled only with saw-dust and half pence, and deliver them to me on my compter, when I had a couple of neighbours invited purposely to drink a glass of wine with me,

in

in my compting-houſe, within the ſhop. The Porter brought them openly upon his back, and, having delivered them according to my directions, I preſently tumbled out the money from the full bag, making a great noiſe with it; then, as if I laid it by to take another bag, I put up one of the ſham hundreds, repeating this five times; after which I told the bearer it was very right; and, making as if I wrote a receipt, I gave it to him, with my humble ſervice to the gentleman, and bade him ſay, I was ſure he would find the goods anſwer his expectation. This deviſe did I uſe three or four time in the ſpace of a month, for ſometimes leſs and larger ſums; which made my neighbours report that I was a man of vaſt dealings: ſo that I had goods daily offered me; ſome whereof I took upon three months credit, and ſome on ſix. The commodities I ſoon turned into money, at any rate, and ſo marched off, leaving my creditors to take

take out a ſtatute of bankruptcy if they thought proper, or uſe any other methods to recover their loſſes, I cared not what, when once I got out of their reach. To my chief creditor I ſent the following lines, that he might not tax me with incivility in going away without giving him notice of it.

Credit doth ſtrengthen ſuch whoſe trades are weak,
But too much credit, Sir, did make me break;
Credit, to ſinking tradeſmen, is a prop,
But, had you kept your wares, I'd kept my ſhop.
Pray don't blame me, Sir, becauſe I ſhow
A way to pay thoſe many debts you owe:
Which you may do, if you'll adviſed be,
To take the hint, and forthwith follow me.
Believe me, honeſt Sir, in what I ſay,
I went before, but to ſhew you the way:
But if you will not, don't lament your loſs,
For in your money I do bear the croſs.
Grief will diſtract you, and deſtroy your wit,
Which you ſhould keep, I'm ſure you've paid for it.

AFTER

After I had packed up ſome goods and things of value, which I ſent by Long Sea to Dublin, I rid poſt for Holy-Head, night and day, ſo that I arrived there in a very ſhort time; going to diſmount, I tumbled off my horſe, and had much ado to riſe again, I was ſo fatigued with my journey: the next day I made a ſhift to walk abroad to view the rarities of the town, but found nothing rare in it but handſome women, civility, and good drink. In two days time we ſet ſail, and had not run above three leagues before the ſky darkened, the wind blew hard at South-eaſt, and the waters roſe mountains high: In an hour's time we were forced to cut our maſts by the board, and lightening the ſhip as much as we could let her drive. Every one fell to prayers, expecting, each moment, when they ſhould be ſwallowed up by the ſea. As for my part, I now thought the Divine vengeance had overtaken me, and would

reckon with me for all my rogueries at once: I looked on myſelf as a Jonas, and was much troubled that others ſhould ſuffer for my iniquities.

About three o'clock in the morning we heard a hideous noiſe, occaſioned by the beating of the ſea againſt the rocks, which was echoed to, by the loud and lamentable cries of the ſeamen, who thought we were paſſed all hopes: now could I have prayed heartily, who had never prayed in my life before; but my devotion was ſoon ſpoiled by the ſhip's ſtriking in between two rocks; I looked out, and, methought, the daſhing of the waves ſeemed perfectly like flaſhes of fire. Here ſhe ſtuck for a while, which gave five of us an opportunity to leap out upon a rock: we were no ſooner there before a wave fetched her off; and then, immediately bringing her on again, ſplit her all to pieces. We ſitting aſtride the rock, behind

hind one another, like ſo many offending foot-ſoldiers on the wooden-horſe. Sometimes a wave would daſh clever over us, which endangered our being waſhed off; and ſometimes we thought to let go our hold, thinking our preſervation to be next to an impoſſibility, and eſpecially as we thought the tide was coming in. At length the hindmoſt gave way, and, with a ſhort ejaculation, committed himſelf to to the mercileſs ocean. Immediately came a roaring ſea and waſhed off the next; and now did I expect that every wave would prove my executioner; but it was not decreed, I ſuppoſe, that I ſhould be drowned.

At break of day we could diſcern, that we were not above a ſtone's throw from the ſhore, and that the ſea was ebbing; in an hour after, or thereabouts, we made a ſhift to crawl to the ſhore, for we could not walk our joints were ſo benumbed by

the cold. We got up the beach, and could perceive, at a little diſtance, a ſmall cottage; thither we repaired with much difficulty, and were kindly entertained, pitied, and informed, that we were in the Iſle of Man, where we ſtayed about a week, without one farthing of expence, for the inhabitants are always very civil and courteous, and eſpecially to ſtrangers.

FROM this iſland, we embarked for Dublin, and landed at a place called Ringſend, about a mile from that city. Here I was aſked if I would have a coach. Where are any, ſaid I? for I looked about me, and could ſee nothing like a coach; the fellow, who aſked me the queſtion, took me for a very ignorant perſon, becauſe I underſtood not what he meant; and angrily cried out, "By my goſſip's hand, thou canſt not ſee a great deal at all; arra, look you now, here is one by thine

thine own ſide." It was ſome time before I could tell what language he ſpoke, the brogue was ſo ſtrong upon him. As for his Ringſend coach, as he called it, it was wheel-barrow faſhion, only it had two wheels ſomewhat bigger than a large Cheſhire cheeſe; and the horſe that drew this princely vehicle, I, at firſt, miſtook for an over-grown maſtiff, in this equipage, neither coached nor carted, I made my entry into Dublin, a place that I found ſheltered more rogues than myſelf. When I had ſecured a pretty good lodging, the better to diſguiſe myſelf, I ſent for a Barber to ſhave of my hair, and bring me a peruke of a quite different colour, to the intent, that if I ſhould meet any of my former acquaintance they might not know me; and indeed in this new trim I hardly knew myſelf. The greateſt difficulty I now had, was to make myſelf familiar with my new name, for I had changed that of Jeremy Sharp to Martin

Laroon: at firſt when my landlady called me by that name, I either ſtared her in the face, or looked behind me, thinking ſhe'd ſpoke to ſomebody elſe; and then, to excuſe my behaviour, was forced to pretend thickneſs of hearing.

I DAILY met ſeveral that I had known in London, but took no cognizance of them, leſt they ſhould ſend an account of me to ſome, who would have given a good deal to know where I was. I had now been in Dublin above a month, and in all that time received no tidings of my goods from England, and all that I had brought with me was conſumed. My landlady, like a true Iriſhwoman, having but little faith, called upon me for what I owed her. With much ado I ſtopped her mouth for a while, by telling her I had a conſiderable quantity of goods and money coming, which I expected by every fair wind; but I ſoon after heard, that the

ſhip

ſhip they were in was caſt away. Now did I think again the wrath of Heaven attended my fraud and knaveries, and my old reflection came croſs my mind, that nothing thus got would ever ſtay with me.

My misfortune I kept to myſelf, knowing, by the diſcovery of it, that I ſhould at firſt only reap ſome pity, and afterwards be undervalued and deſpiſed. My hoſteſs again was very importunate with me to have her reckoning; I endeavoured to put her off, ſaying, I daily expected bills of exchange, but ſhe would not believe me; for I found ſhe had been often deceived by ſuch pretences. Now did I not know what to do, but thought to try another method; for, being a widow, I fancied I might be able to work upon her female frailty; therefore I uſed all poſſible means to get her alone, which I did but ſeldom, for ſhe was a fine gentlewoman,

and

and what is called a prude; but when I had her by myſelf, I uſed abundance of rhetoric to perſuade her into a belief that I was violently in love with her. She made little anſwer to all I ſaid, underſtanding my drift, I verily believe, ſometimes ſhe would ſay, Come, come, away with theſe love-fooleries, and pay me what you owe me. Then would I tell her all I enjoyed, and myſelf too, were properly her's, and that ſhe might take them whenever ſhe pleaſed into her poſſeſſion. No, no, ſaid ſhe, my youthful days are paſt, it is time for me to think of Heaven, and have done with the follies of this world.

SINCE words had no effect, I reſolved to uſe other means; and knowing how difficult it is for a woman in bed to refuſe a warm proffer of love, I ſtole ſoftly one night into her bed-chamber, and groping with my hand for her face, I caught

caught a man by the beard. At which he awaked, and thinking the Devil was come to trim him, would have cried out aloud, but fear had ſo locked up his voice, that his higheſt note was little louder than a whiſper; I could but juſt hear him ſay, "In the name of ——— what art?" I am, ſaid I, no ghoſt, but a living witneſs of your concupiſcence, to that intent I came hither to be fully ſatisfied of what I have long ſuſpected. As for you, Madam, your youthful days are paſſed, but your luſt will endure for ever. If this be your way to Heaven, why were you ſo uncharitable as not to let me go along with you? As for your part, Sir, I ſuppoſe you will be ſoon there, for I gueſs you very lately came out of purgatory.

To be ſhort, they both intreated me to be ſilent, and to retire to my own lodging-room; and aſſured me, that, in

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the morning, they would talk with me to my own ſatisfaction. This was all that I aimed at, though not brought about in the manner I intended. Early in the morning they both came to me: the pious gentlewoman, being very tender of her credit, told me, ſhe would freely forgive me my debt, if I would promiſe not to blaſt her reputation, by reporting what I had diſcovered; her gallant likewiſe gave me five guineas to bind the bargain: ſo, having got a diſcharge under her hand, I ſealed our contract with an oath, and we took leave of one another very civilly.

I TOOK myſelf a new lodging; and the very next night went to a gaming-table, where, from theſe five pieces, I expected to raiſe a mountain of gold, for I thought I underſtood the beſt of the lay, and was not quite ignorant in the ingenious arts of cogging and palming; but here I met with

with an over-match, and had not one croſs left, when I went home ſupperleſs to bed, with what anxiety of mind I leave any loſing gameſter at liberty to imagine. I acquainted my landlord with my misfortune, who ſeemed much to condole with me at preſent, but it was afterwards the occaſion of his not crediting me. From hence I would adviſe all to ſpeak as little as they can of any ills that befal them, for as good ſucceſs always meets with approbation, ſo let the accident be never ſo unavoidable, the man is always blamed that miſcarries.

PERCEIVING my landlord grew cold, my ſpirit was too high to be any longer beholding to him for my lodging, wherefore I ſeldom came home until night, making a hard ſhift to ſkulk about for a dinner among ſome of my countrymen, to whom I told a plauſible ſtory, of great returns I expected from England. Every Morning I offered up my devotions, either

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to St. Patrick or St. James, who have each of them an excellent well, dedicated to the honour of their Saint-ſhips. But one day having faſted long, and not having a ſtiver in my pocket, as I was bewailing my hard fate, and walking with down-caſt eyes, it was my good fortune to find a crooked ſixpence, which I catched up with tranſport, and immediately tranſported myſelf to a Cook's ſhop.

The good woman of the houſe aſked me what I would pleaſe to have, I told her any thing that was eatable, that would come within the compaſs of a teaſter; whereupon ſhe brought me ſome hot roaſt beef, and went to draw me ſome drink, but before ſhe could return, I had ſwallowed all my meat, I was ſo exceeding hungry; ſhe then brought more, and I diſpatched that almoſt as ſoon, and when I had done, I offered her my ſixpence; truly, ſhe ſaid, that would not do, I had

had

had two ſixpenny-worths, I told her that was all the money I had about me, but that I would pay her the next day: She was not ſatisfied with this, but told me plainly, that ſhe muſt have her reckoning now; well then, ſaid I, ſtay a little, ſo when her back was turned, I attempted to make my eſcape, but ſhe was too nimble for me, and catched me by the flap of my coat; then had I no way to come off but by telling her a pitiful ſtory, and at the ſame time larding my diſcourſe with ſome pieces of flattery upon her charming looks, which denoted both good ſenſe and good nature: What woman is proof againſt flattery? I found ſhe began to look ſmirkingly upon me; why truly, young man, ſaid ſhe, you tell me a melancholy tale of your loſſes and diſtreſſes, and you have ſo much honeſty in your countenance, (here ſhe returned my compliment) that I cannot help believing all you ſay; and if you will accept of a bed in my houſe,

you ſhall be welcome to it, 'till you have remittances from England, I made not many words to this bargain, but joyfully embraced both my landlady and her offer.

I was laid in a good room, and the kind landlady made very much of me, bringing me a ſack-poſſet at night when I was going to bed. I told her I was afraid it would be impoſſible for me to make a return anſwerable to ſo many favours: O! my dear honey, replied ſhe, rowling her pretty pigſneys to and fro in her bacon face, I require no return but thy love. We made not many ceremonies like puling whining lovers, that are always ſaying grace, but never fall to, for we immediately claſped one another round the waiſt, and, by the help of imagination, I had a Venus in my arms inſtead of this Succubus.

WHEN-

Whenever I wanted a ſmall ſum, a kiſs or two, or the bare ſaying, I loved her, would extract enough from her for my preſent occaſions; but if I wanted a larger ſum, why then a quarter of an hour's diſcourſe in private effected my ends. Being quite choaked up with the ſmoak of the city, I had a longing deſire to take ſome freſh air in the country. I acquainted my patroneſs herewith, who condeſcended to my requeſt, but with a great deal of regret, and upon condition that I ſhould promiſe to return in two days. The morning that I ſet out, there was as ſolemn a leave taken, as if I had been going a voyage to the Eaſt-Indies. Well, there is no fool like an old doating fool; and were I again to love for intereſt, I would chuſe ſuch another perſon; your young ſkittiſh things, who know they are handſome, think they do a man ſuch a favour, by admitting him to a little familiarity, that they can never be ſuf-

ficiently rewarded for; whereas a woman, a little ſtricken in years, whoſe youthful allurements are gone, knowing ſhe hath nothing but her wealth to attract withal, will freely part with it for ſelf ſatisfaction, and that ſhe may not loſe her paramour, conſtantly encourage him even to the exhauſting her own ſubſtance. If ſhe finds the man anſwer her expectations, ſhe will ſtudy how to pleaſe him in every thing, that he may pleaſe her in one.

But to proceed: coming to Ballemore-Euſtace, which is in the county of Wicklow; a little beyond the town, there is a ſmall river in the ſummer-time, not above knee-deep; I perceived a young woman about to croſs it, who, drawing near the water, ſtood not upon the modeſt niceties of her ſex, but pulled up her cloaths to her waiſt. This ſight made me ſtop, and as near as I could juſt over againſt her. She regarded me not, but came ſtrait over

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to me, and, at about three yards diſtance, let down her coats. I obſerved ſo many excellencies in this beautiful object, that my blood boiled, and my fleſh was all in an uproar: for her hair, which curled naturally, was of a bright flaxen, and each hair in the ſun glittered like a fine thread of gold.

Here take notice, that the maids, for the moſt part, winter and ſummer, go without any covering on their heads, which they waſh all over every night. The meaner ſort, as ſoon as they are married, wear kerchers. She had an angelical countenance, only ſomewhat browniſh, by the ſun's frequently kiſſing it; but I know not whether it made her the leſs beautiful. As to the ſkin of her body it might diſpute with the ſnow for whiteneſs. I diſmounted, and addreſſed myſelf to her in Engliſh; which ſhe, not underſtanding, anſwered me in her own lan-

guage. Then did I make uſe of the little Iriſh I had learnt; which, as moſt young people begin with, were only ſome few ſmutty expreſſions; to which ſhe replied, but I underſtood her not. To be brief, I ſo far prevailed, that I got her into a ſmall wood, where the thick and ſpreading tops of the trees ſeemed to lay their heads together, to contrive not only how to keep out the ſun, but alſo the curious ſearch of any mortal eye. My young Damſel permitted me to kiſs, dally, and lay my hands upon her breaſts and thighs, which I only looked upon as the prelude of what was to follow; but herein I was much miſtaken, for the diſpoſition of theſe young Iriſh laſſes is quite different from that of the Engliſh, with whom, when you can gain the liberty of making uſe of the hand, you may make uſe of what you pleaſe; but it is quite otherwiſe with the firſt, who, without the leaſt oppoſition, will ſuffer you to ſtray about where you

have

have a mind with your hands; but, even then, you are as far from obtaining the main point as ever; for, as ſoon as ſhe ſaw me ready to engage, ſhe cried out inceſſantly, "Whillallalloo, Whillallalloo;" and I could hear this ululation echoed. When I had juſt recovered my horſe, two or three fellows came running to me; one with a flail, and the reſt with long poles. The firſt ſalutation I received was from the flail, which was very near doing my buſineſs. The next my horſe's crupper received; which, the poor beaſt, being well bred, could do no leſs than return with the ſalute of one of his hind legs, and that brought down one of the fellows; but the other two ſtood ſo ſtiffly to me that I knew not what courſe to take.

THE villains were ſo nimble, that one of them was continually before me, hindering my flight, whilſt the other drubbed me forward. At length, I bethought myſelf

myſelf of a piſtol I had in my pocket, charged only with powder, ſo I drew it out, and preſenting it, pretended I would fire if they did not deſiſt; but theſe ſtupid wretches apprehended not the danger, and never moved, upon which I fired full in the face of him who fronted me, who verily believed he had been ſhot, and ſo out of meer conceit, for the ruſticks are very timerous, he dropped down as if he was dead, which, the other ſeeing, ran away as ſwift as lightning, and ſo I was at liberty to ride on, which I did with great ſpeed. Lovers may talk what they will of their ſufferings, by their miſtreſſes frowns and hard-heartedneſs, but let any one judge of mine by the blows I received; ſighing is nothing to fighting, and a few moiſt tears are not to come in competition with dry-baſting. Pox on them, they made me out of conceit with love for ſix weeks after, I never thought of enjoying a woman ſince, but the remembrance

brance of thoſe three bog-trotters converted the hot fit into an ague.

A LITTLE way from Baltinglaſs I took up my quarters for that night. The inn I lay in was one ſtory high, about the height of an ordinary pigſty, and there was one chimney in it too, more than is to be found in one of an hundred ſuch hovels. The good man welcomed me after his faſhion, but I think an Anthropophagus, or Indian man-eater, would have done it as genteely. I bade him ſet up my horſe by ſigns, for that was the language we converſed in; but, alas! there was no other ſtable but what was at the end of our kitchen; our dining-room, bed-chamber, pigſty, pantry, and buttery, being all one, without diſtinction or ſeparation. Some few wattles, as they call them, were placed above indeed, and thoſe made our hayloft. The only door of our inn was a large hurdle, much like that of a ſheep-

ſheep-pen. The bannetree, or good wife of the houſe, could ſpeak a little broken Engliſh: I aſked her what I ſhould have for ſupper? Thou ſhalt have a ſupper, ſaid ſhe, for St. Patrick agra. I waited half an hour, expecting when ſhe would lay down ſomething to the fire; but inſtead of that, ſhe brings me a great wooden platter full of green leeks, with a good quantity of bay-ſalt ſtrewed among them; and a loaf of bread as black as if the meal had been wetted with ink. Seeſt thou, tere, St. Patrick did never eat better ting. I could not forbear ſmiling, which put her into a great paſſion; for if a man eats not what they ſet before him, they think themſelves highly affronted: therefore, that I might not offend my landlord and landlady too much, I ſeemed to eat, but conveyed what I took up on that pretence into my boots. After ſupper, I aſked for a clean pipe, the woman brought me one about an inch long, and ſaid, it was very

clean

clean, for her huſband had not ſmoaked in it above twice or thrice at moſt. They offered me ſome ſnuff too, and that is one of the greateſt compliments they can pay to any one. I then called for ſome drink, to try if that correſponded with the reſt; and indeed it did ſo, for there was no ſwallowing it without chewing. Finding but little ſatisfaction, I deſired to go to bed: that I ſhould, inſtantly, they ſaid; but I wondered where they intended to lay me. In a little while in came a luſty wench, with a bundle of ruſhes on her head, and ſpreading them on the ground, they were covered with a caddow, or rugg, and this was to be my bed, or none. Patience was my only comfort, ſo ſtripping myſelf to my drawers, and ſtockings, I laid myſelf down. About two hours after came in two cows, three or four pigs, ſome geeſe and ducks, which were not introduced before to ſhew their reſpect to me. All the family

mily being now within doors, the man, his wife, and two daughters, ſtripping themſelves ſtark-naked, lay down altogether by my ſide; this was a little ſtrange to me, and I could hardly forbear the two young ones, but that my late misfortune was ſo freſh in my memory.

I SLEPT very little all night; wherefore, early in the morning, I diſcharged my reckoning, and ſet forward for Dublin with all expedition, for I could not brook the entertainment in the country any longer. I would not ride the ſame way back that I came, but it might have been as well for me if I had; for, coming to a river that I was obliged to ford, I aſked a fellow which was the ſafeſt place: he pretended to have no knowledge of what I ſaid; wherefore, making ſigns to him, he anſwered me again with his hand, directing me to ſuch a place; that, at the firſt ſtep, my horſe and I plunged over head-

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and-ears; and had not my horſe been ſtrong, we had both periſhed: with much difficulty we got up the bank on the other ſide, then looking behind me, the villain was got almoſt out of ſight. Such miſchief is ſometimes in the hearts of theſe ſavage wretches againſt thoſe of their own ſpecies, who have given them no offence.

HAVING thus narrowly eſcaped I arrived ſafe at Dublin, to the great joy of my old hoſteſs, reſolving, when next I undertook ſuch a journey, I would ſteer by the compaſs of other men's experience. A little after my return, it was my chance to fall into the acquaintance of a young man, who was of a good lively wit, but very poor, having been driven to Dublin, on views like my own, and now made an end of all

he had in the world. I found means to be ſomewhat ſerviceable to this man, and he thought he could never do enough to requite me. When his heart was a little cheered, by having a ſmall ſpell in his purſe, he was a very merry companion, and I took much delight in his company.

One day, as we were walking together by the Cuſtom-houſe, we ſaw ſeveral pipes and hogſheads of wine. Viewing all the places belonging thereto, ſaid I, methinks it would be no difficult matter to ſteal one of theſe hogſheads, had I but aſſiſtance. "You ſhall not want mine, Sir, ſaid my companion, even to the hazard of my life: and I can carry you, continued he, to a place (called Lazy-hill) to two or three lads of my acquaintance, one of whom has a boat, and they will be glad

glad to join in the undertaking." So ſaid, we went accordingly, and there informed them of our deſign; who, very readily, came into it, and promiſed to meet to put it in execution, the ſame night, about twelve of the clock, and they were as good as their words; having procured an empty hogſhead, which we filled with water, and away we went in the boat. The tide ebbing, had left dry ground underneath the key, where I planted three of our company; inſtructing them, that as ſoon as they found the coaſt clear above, they ſhould with ſlings, which they had for that purpoſe, leave the hogſhead of water, and exchange it for one of wine; which done, they ſhould march off immediately to the rendezvous we had appointed. I and my comrade marched up the Cuſtom-houſe ſtairs, where we encountered with two

old Watchmen: they aſked us what our buſineſs was there; we told them we had no other deſign but to drink with them, having got a little merry on the other ſide of the water, and ſo were reſolved to be frolickſome. The old Watchmen were very joyful at this news; and ſo, giving one of them ſome money to fetch drink, the other conducted us to the Lodge. When the drink was come, they minded that ſo much, that they had forgotten their duty; ſo, while we plied them with bumpers, the reſt of my comrades ſheered off with the booty. There being five of us concerned, we ſcorned to turn our wine into money, but reſolved to make merry with it as long as it laſted. Some of the jovial rogues found means to bring in ſome Weſtphalia hams, and other reliſhing bits;

bits; we clubbed for muſic, and every one got his wench.

In the height of all this jollity, word was brought me, that my old land-lady was dangerouſly ſick, and deſired to ſpeak with me inſtantly; thinking this was only a fit of jealouſy, and a call to ſatisfy her amorous itch, I made no great haſte to obey her ſummons; but at length I went, and as ſoon as I entered the doors, I was met with the ſad tidings of her death. I ran up ſtairs not believing the report, becauſe I would not have had it ſo; but found it too true. Viewing her as ſhe lay, I perceived her fiſt was clinched; I took it into mine, and, wrenching it open, there dropped ten pieces of gold, which I conceived ſhe intended to have beſtowed on me, with her dying hand, as her laſt legacy. I conveyed them

privately into my pocket, and presently made enquiry how she had disposed of her estate; but I received little or no satisfaction therein, only, to my great grief and vexation, I heard she had oftentimes called to the very last upon me, having matters of great concern to communicate to me. I stayed not above two days in the house, and then was constrained to leave it.

Some time after I met my obliged friend, who had assisted in stealing the hogshead of wine; I related to him the misfortune I had just had; and he, like an experienced Stoic, advised me to bear my loss patiently, since it is below a man to repine at any fortuitous casualty, much more to sink under the weight of it. We discoursed much on what expedients we could find to increase

increaſe our ſlender ſtocks, he propounded many ways, among the reſt, that of turning highwayman, which I diſſuaded him from, by telling him that money was very ſcarce, and that gentlemen of good eſtates would now travel thirty or forty miles with not money enough to make it worth while to attack them; not becauſe they were afraid of being robbed, but that there was ſo little in the kingdom. Well then, ſaid he, there is enough in the Exchequer; but, anſwered I, very difficult to come at, and I will not venture my neck for it. Hearing me talk thus, he looked on me very ſcornfully; ſaying, That fear was a paſſion unworthy to be lodged in the ſoul of man; and that there is nothing here which a man either ſhould, or need to fear. And that no one ought to

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enjoy any thing, who was afraid of venturing his neck for it.

We had so hot a contest about this, that we parted in anger, and I never saw him afterwards, till I heard of his condemnation: which was occasioned by his putting in practice the project he had proposed to me of robbing the Exchequer; two or three more were concerned with him, and all of them were apprehended in the enterprize, for which they were tried and condemned. Hearing of this, I payed him a visit in prison, expressing much sorrow for what he was to suffer; but he only laughed at me for my pains. I desired him to be more serious, since three days would put a period to his life, and then he must give an account of what he had done; and said, however we might flatter ourselves

ſelves with hopes of forgiveneſs, yet, without a ſincere repentance, we ought not to expect it. Prithee, ſaid he, do not trouble thy head with ſuch idle fancies, and ſo broke out into the moſt atheiſtical expreſſions; which, bad as I am myſelf, ſhocked even me, and is, by no means, fit to be repeated. I could no longer endure to hear his blaſphemies, and ſo left him to the conviction of his own conſcience, not doubting but it would work powerfully with him, at leaſt at the place of execution.

The day being come, I reſolved to ſee the final exit of my friend, and there I enjoyed the fruit of my hopes in his repentance; for as ſoon as the halter was about his neck, he roared out in ſuch a manner, as would have alarmed the moſt lethargic conſcience that ever

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the Devil lulled in a ſtupid neglect of their future happineſs: Now could I ſee, by his ſtreaming eyes and wringing hands, the convulſions of his ſoul, and, from the confeſſion of his own mouth, hear how he was tortured with deſpair; then it was that the voluminous regiſter of his conſcience, which, till then, lay claſped up in ſome unſearched corner of his memory, was ſpread open to his view, and then glared all his crimes before him in full proportion, which, till then, he had only looked at through the leſſening end of the perſpective; and theſe made him cry out inceſſantly for mercy 'till he was turned off.

20 AU 50

END of the FIRST VOLUME.